

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FL ON JANUARY 3, 2023, THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

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

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair NeSmith called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m., Commissioner Green gave the Invocation and the Chair then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

Commissioner Hinson appeared at 6:04 p.m.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Dixon said he had three amendments to the agenda and asked to pull items 10, 11 and 12.

Commissioner Holt said she had no problem in pulling item 10, but asked if it could be addressed at the workshop on Thursday for a vote.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO KEEP ITEM 10 AND PULL ITEMS 11 AND 12 AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

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

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

- 1. Recognition of Past Commissioner, Anthony O. Viegbesie, Ph.D., for his years of service to the Gadsden County Citizens as County Commissioner, District 2**
Chair NeSmith asked Dr. Viegbesie to come forward and said a few words on behalf of his service to the County and his retirement. He read aloud the plaque and then presented it to the former Commissioner Viegbesie. Dr. Viegbesie said a few words of appreciation.

CONSENT

Mr. Dixon introduced the Consent Agenda and said Commissioner Simpkins had asked to pull the Minutes as she had a question.

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

2. **Ratification Memo**
3. **Approval of Minutes**
 - **December 6, 2022 Regular Meeting**
4. **Approval of SHIP/First Time Homebuyer Program Liens and Contracts**
5. **Public Officials Bond Review**
6. **Approval of the Florida Department of Health, Gadsden County Emergency Services Matching Grant**
7. **Approval to Ratify the CDBG-CV-22CV-S09 Agreement for the Dr. William S. Stevens High School Project**

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

3. **Approval of Minutes**
 - **December 6, 2022 Regular Meeting**

Mr. Dixon explained the Minutes was being pulled because Commissioner Simpkins' name was left off the top of the Minutes as being in attendance and she was present. The Deputy Clerk explained it was an oversight and would be corrected.

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

Commissioner Green asked for some enlightenment on Item 7 regarding the Stevens School project.

CHAIR NESMITH CALLED FOR THE VOTE ON THE MOTION AND THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CORRECTED MINUTES.

Mr. Dixon stated this CDBG-CV-22 CV -S09 was the acceptance of the award of \$1.6 million to redo Stevens School.

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 3, 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.

Bishop Willie Green, 296 Bradwell Rd, Quincy, General –

Bishop Green appeared before the Board and said this was first meeting of the new year. He applauded them for a successful year and making it better for the citizens of the County. He urged them to continue to provide needed infrastructure.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

8. Approval of Purchase Agreement for the Purchase of the Property Located at Gadsden County Parcel ID# 3-24-2N-4W-0000-00330-0100

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was asking for Board approval to purchase property located at Gadsden County Parcel ID# 3-24-2N-4W-0000-00330-0100.

Chair NeSmith asked if there were any comments from the public.

Bishop Green appeared and asked the location of the 52 acres. Mr. Dixon said it was along the front side of Pat Thomas Parkway, starting at the body shop down to the IFAS Station over to Hogan Lane.

Bishop Green said this fell in line with his earlier statement and encouraged them to approve.

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

Commissioner Hinson asked the attorney if there was still a lease with the body shop and he stated yes, two years left with a 5-year option to renew. Commissioner Hinson said there was 52 acres of land, 50.5 acres was agricultural and 1.5 was commercial. It was stated there was 51.21 acres of vacant land and 1 acre of improved. Commissioner Hinson said his heartburn was putting affordable housing across from the State prison and the County jail.

Commissioner Green said there was housing and a shelter around the Federal prison in Tallahassee.

Commissioner Simpkins asked they look at page 36 of the current appraisal. She had previously asked if the property had been listed for sale and was told no but according to the appraisal the property had been listed for sale. She said it shows 51.23 acres at \$512,300. She read from the appraisal report "As a result, we conclude to entice a single buyer interested in the subject vacant land, to by both parcels would require the discount on the retail price of automobile body shop of approximately 10% to 20%. The opinion of market value for automobile body shop was \$240,000." She said this was actually less than the previous appraisal as it had \$365,000. She said they should have gotten the discount because they will not be using that body shop and when they are looking at purchasing the property they should have taken that into consideration. She said the value range was between \$712,000 to \$815,000 and asked if they ever went back and try to negotiate a price other than the \$750,000. She said the first appraisal was completed by the sellers of the property.

Mr. Dixon said the first appraisal was completed and paid for by the Board. He said the value range recognizes the discounted price and \$750,000 is close to what they recommended as the discount price. When they went back to the owner, they were firm about their price.

Commissioner Simpkins asked who handled the negotiations on the contract, the attorney? Mr. Knowles said yes on the contract but not on the negotiation of the price. She asked for plans for the body shop. Mr. Dixon said they have already had phase one of the environmental study done and their plan is to begin to look at the property and find the money to improve it.

Commissioner Holt said people could not believe the County got that property for that price. The County can change the zoning and land use. She said it was a good price, she had checked it before and checked with two brokers.

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

GENERAL BUSINESS

9. Approval of Resolution 2023-001 Grant Budget Amendment for FY 2023

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for board approval of Resolution 2023-001 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 2023 BOCC budget.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD QUESTIONS.

Commissioner Hinson had a question on page 4 of 33. Regarding Budget amendment 23-020, ARPA, he asked why they were not holding conversations and workshops on monies for the commissioners to use in their district.

Mr. Dixon said this was to set up the budget line to accept money into their coffers.

Commissioner Hinson said before he voted on this, he wanted a workshop.

Commissioner Holt said she was ready to vote but they need an account set up to accept money.

Commissioner Hinson said he needed clarity, they were talking about \$4.5 million they just received; \$1.2 CARES Act money; \$1.7 and have another \$2.8 million in ARPA. With that amount of money, you would think they were moving close to \$10,000,000. Mr. Dixon explained this was just to accept the new money that was coming, the other money was already in their budget. Commissioner Hinson said the new money is \$4.5 million and the agenda items says \$6.1 Million and that meant there was other money out there they did not use and the numbers did not add up. Mr. Dixon said that was additional money, not only the \$4.4 but they (inaudible) that increased the amount of money that they received and when they got in the workshop, they would be able to explain it in more detail. Commissioner Hinson said he would like a workshop before voting on this because he needed clarity now.

Mr. Knowles said this was to set-up the budget for the grant.

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

10. Approval of the Contract with Al Lawson and Associates for Lobbying Services

Mr. Dixon introduced the above referenced item and said it was for board approval of the agreement for Gadsden County Legislative Advocacy and Public Relations service with Al Lawson and associates.

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

Commissioner Simpkins said when looking at the contract for Lawson and Associates, what was the return on investment from last year since they were upping the amount from \$25,000 to \$60,000, she was not sure what they received from last year.

Chair NeSmith said he knew some Commissioners would want to know 1) what was the return on the original contract last year; and 2) what were their legislative items they were requesting them to achieve this year? He thought the best way was to have them appear before the board.

Mr. Dixon said they achieved \$30-40 Million in projects; the majority locally. They have done an exceptional job, have presented some stuff and looking to present more. He said on January 19th they would have the representatives here, local and federal as well as their lobbyist.

Commissioner Simpkins said when she had a conversation with the Administrator and was questioning the contract and it said the item would be tabled in order to furnish additional information. She said with looking at the contract, it stated the report would be provided. She wanted to know what had been provided and received from this firm.

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

~~11. Approval of the Contract with Barkley Consulting Engineers, Inc. for Professional Consulting Services Architectural Services~~

Item Pulled

~~12. Approval of the Contract with Clemons, Rutherford, & Associates, Inc. for Professional Consulting Services Architectural Services~~

Item Pulled

13. Approval to Purchase of Five Ambulances

Mr. Dixon introduced the above agenda item and said the chassis was wearing out on some of the ambulances.

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

Commissioner Green asked where would they house the unused units and Mr. Dixon said he was not sure right now.

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

14. Fairbanks Ferry Road (SCOP) Supplemental Agreement

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the Fairbanks Ferry Supplemental Agreement in the amount of \$1,942,880. The agreement is being increased by \$243,883 to support the design, costs of construction and CEI.

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

Commissioner Hinson asked if they were going straight from Highway 12 to Concord.

Jeremiah Lee, Public Works Director, appeared before the Board and explained. (There was no microphone at the podium for the Clerk's Office and could not hear Mr. Lee's response.)

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

15. Approval to Move Funds from Reserve for Contingency for the Bicentennial Celebration of Gadsden County

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval to move funds from Reserve for Contingency for the Bicentennial Celebration of Gadsden County and in 2023 Gadsden County will turn 200 years old. He said initial planning had begun with a select group of county employees and event advisers and the group is considering how many celebratory events will be held and where they will take place. He asked they approve moving money for this.

Commissioner Hinson asked if other cities were contacted and Mr. Dixon said there was a meeting scheduled tomorrow with them.

Commissioner Green said a workshop was needed very soon.

Commissioner Holt said she was on the Tourist Development Council (TDC) and they have different events during the year, especially the fall.

Commissioner Simpkins agreed with the celebration but did not see \$200,000 needed for a budget. She said they did need to bring events in but wanted to make sure they were being fiscally responsible with citizens' tax dollars. She added before they agreed to move money over, there was a need to workshop this matter.

Mr. Dixon said he anticipated bringing this back and did not anticipate spending any money. He said this was a procedural matter and has to go before the body and was time consuming. They were getting this in a budget line item to move over so when they come back, they could easily move the money.

Commissioner Simpkins said this item states to move funds from Reserve for Contingency and the funds may not be spent at that time prior to coming to the Board, however the funds have now been moved from the Reserve into Contingency where the funds could be spent on the Bicentennial Celebration and felt this needed to be workshopped. If the money is there, there

was a possibility they will spend the \$200,000. It may not be spent before they come back but felt they still had time to workshop this matter.

Commissioner Green asked if they could ask for a lesser amount and if they saw a need for more, address it then.

Chair NeSmith said additional information was needed from the municipalities. Mr. Dixon said he would ask.

Commissioner Holt said the key word was “up to”. She said to contact the cities tomorrow and send an invitation of the information to them. if they do not move quickly, they will miss the springtime and summertime.

Commissioner Hinson asked who sat on the TDC board and Commissioner Holt said she did. Commissioner Hinson asked how much money was in the TDC account. He said TDC should be spearheading this as they receive funding through the bed tax. He said funding was there and they need to know what they are doing first.

Commissioner Holt said when they have an appointed board, they were not necessarily accountable to the people. This board was accountable to the people.

Mr. Knowles read about appointments to the TDC Board.

Commissioner Green made an amendment to the motion to make sure it was clear no money was to be spent without board approval. Commissioner Holt said she would accept that but this had to come back to the Board anyway.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE CONTINGENT ON IT COMING BACK BEFORE ANY MONIES WERE SPENT AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND.

Commissioner Simpkins said if they move this over, there is a certain amount that the County Administrator could spend without coming before the board. Commissioner Simpkins asked if it were possible for Mr. Dixon to spend without bringing it back to the Board and was told yes. She said they were asking for it to come back before the Board but it did not have to.

Chair NeSmith explained what he was hearing in the motion was they were requiring the County Administrator to bring this back before them; he could not spend the money because it was a part of the motion.

Commissioner Holt said it was because she said “contingent upon”.

Mr. Knowles clarified as the motion stood, no monies would be spent except by board approval.

Commissioner Simpkins said she wanted to be clear because there were companies listed and asked if the motion was saying all contracts were to come back to the Board before any money was spent.

Commissioner Hinson said there was a problem; there were companies listed and if they approve the contract everything listed would be approved also.

Mr. Dixon said the names listed in the Fiscal Impact was a mistake and should have been taken out.

Mr. Dixon asked if they would clarify the motion to exclude the vendors listed.

Commissioner Holt said approving Option 1 which was to approve to move funds from Reserve for Contingency for the Bicentennial Celebration of Gadsden County and that was it. She added she could withdraw her motion and restate they were not voting to pay any one until it came back before the Board.

COMMISSIONER HOLT WITHDREW HER MOTION AND COMMISSIONER GREEN WITHDREW HIS SECOND.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION WITHOUT THE NAMES OF ANY COMPANY OR ORGANIZATION AND BRING BACK BEFORE THE BOARD BEFORE SPENDING ANY MONEY AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.

16. Approval for Gadsden County Emergency Services to Apply for the SAFER Grant

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was for approval for the Gadsden County Emergency Services to apply for the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant.

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

Commissioner Green asked the original fiscal impact on the grant.

Chief Hood, EMS Chief, appeared before the Board and said there was no fiscal impact; this was based on how many positions they apply for. They were asking to apply for 12 positions. He said the amount will decrease every year by 25%.

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

CLERK OF COURT

17. Updates

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

18. Updates

Mr. Dixon said the County participated with the City of Quincy in providing cold weather shelters.

He said they will be receiving calendars for the next few months regarding workshops and hope they commit to meeting a couple of Saturdays and daily meetings to accomplish their requests.

He said they had an employee function that was spot on.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

19. Updates

Mr. Knowles said he was requesting a shade meeting and Executive Session to discuss litigation and settlement before the next regular meeting and Insurance counsel has requested to approve the settlement.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR AN EXECUTIVE MEETING BEFORE THE NEXT SCHEDULED REGULAR MEETING AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD APPROVED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

20. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2

Commissioner Simpkins wanted to thank the County for their help with the New Year's brunch hosted by Radiant Life Changers, Inc.

She said she knew before she came on there was discussion about workshops relating to ordinances and asked when they would be scheduling workshops for that. She added in order to cut down their time in the meeting she asked about agenda workshops.

She said the deadline for legislative agenda is February 14th and knew there was a lot on the plate but they need to make sure they were looking at their calendars and had the information in time so everything would not be an emergency.

She said it was amazing Bishop Green came and spoke about the need to serve their most vulnerable populations. Before coming to the meeting, she was having a discussion with a constituent about youth crimes and need to have programming in local communities. They need to look at what they can do to save their youth.

She said they had received an email from the Clerk regarding the workstation for the Clerk. Chair NeSmith said he was in discussions with the Administrator regarding making better arrangements for them.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt asked how the work on the clinic in Chattahoochee was coming and Mr. Dixon said the work was done and was ready. He said the provider sent information asking them to look at a program that partners with them and using some of the ½ sales tax. He said they were reviewing it and will bring it before the Board possibly at the next meeting and they will have to decide at what level and debt they will participate for the delivery of services.

She said when Hurricane Michael came, people in Chattahoochee were trapped. They need to look at using the ½ cent tax to help with health care services.

She added that they needed to look at a way to bring funding in for the different projects they mention.

The last item she brought up concerned auctions held at the Courthouse and that meant there were families losing property. She said they need to talk to people and advertise to let them know they need to be buying properties that are in their family. They are not aware of this and they need to do a better job of marketing and let them know that people outside the county are buying up the properties. She said some people have been restricted from buying simply because of the rush.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 8:47 and returned at 8:50.

Mr. Dixon introduced Ms. Becky Maas, new Director of Human Resources and she appeared before the Board and spoke a few words.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5

Commissioner Green shared there had been new hires and wanted to make sure everyone was properly introduced.

Mr. Dixon said Charles Hayes was in the audience and was also a new hire. He appeared before the Board and introduced himself. He is the County Operations Coordinator.

Ms. Agnes Denson was then introduced and appeared before the Board. Ms. Denson is the new Project Manager with Public Works.

Commissioner Green said earlier they were discussing community centers and hoped there would be an update regarding the Boys and Girls Club.

Mr. Dixon said they have been meeting with them weekly and was waiting for their Board to meet and make some decisions. The question was, were they ready to start the project in purchasing the property or wait until they raised all the money. He said the county has encouraged and pushed them to start the project because it was needed in the community today.

Commissioner Green asked if any thought had been given to the Social Security access. Mr. Dixon said they were looking to see if they could be added as a part of senior services.

Commissioner Green thanked Dr. Tracey Stallworth and Kingdom Glory Worship Assembly for their assistance in the cleaning supplies giveaway and help in the Lockwood Family Support Drive.

He said there will be a Martin Luther King celebration that will take place by the National Hook-Up of Black Women on January 16th at the Recreation Center and will start at 7:45 a.m.

He said there was another burn out in the Coonbottom area and he was going to look into partnering with Commissioner Hinson to see about assistance for the family.

He. asked for a proclamation or recognition for three people that have served this community.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO RECOGNIZE SHANDA WRIGHT, CHRISTY SHORTER AND TYRONE DAVIS AND CHAIR NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Eric Hinson, Vice-Chair District 1

Commissioner Hinson said he spoke to Ms. Reva Richardson, her house burned down and has been trying to find services to assist her. He was told there has been a GoFundMe page started.

He said he had great news, the old Havana Northside high school was receiving State and Federal funding at almost \$2 Million; Midway Septic to sewer project to receive around \$4,000,000; Neighborhood Health Medical Center to receive \$1.6 million; and \$1.2 million for a teen multipurpose center in Havana.

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

Commissioner Simpkins stepped out at 9:04 p.m.

Commissioner Green returned at 9:05 p.m.

Commissioner Simpkins returned at 9:06 p.m.

Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, Chair, District

Chair NeSmith congratulated Commissioner Simpkins for the success of the celebration and for sponsoring the event at St. Hebron Park and.

He said Hardaway Highway needs attention because there was a lot of trash on the highway.

He reminded the Commissioners of the Senior Citizens Funding workshop in Commission Chambers scheduled for Thursday at 4:00 p.m.

Commissioner Holt asked about the garbage on the highway, was it what people has put out or what was thrown out and he stated it looked like what was thrown out.

Commissioner Hinson asked if they had a “weatherization” program in the County to help fix old windows etc. Mr. Dixon said it used to be called Capital Area Community Action and it was a grant-based program. He also asked for an itemized list regarding the ship program in his district.

He stated for the next meeting for them to be thinking about the different boards they were willing to serve on.

Chair NeSmith made a motion to rename the Greenshade-Dogtown Fire station after Dr. Viegbesie. Commissioner Simpkins asked to hold off on that and give her a chance to speak to persons in the community.

Commissioner Green said he thought that was the general business of the board.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
January 3, 2023-Regular Meeting

Greenlight moment: Commissioner Green said: "In order to be successful in the new year, stay focused, develop a positive attitude and the passionate, not just with your dreams but helping others fulfill their dreams."

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:26 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**KIMBLIN NESMITH, 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 JANUARY 5, 2023 AT 4:00 P.M.,
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

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

Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Nesmith welcomed everyone to the workshop at 4:01 pm. Commissioner Hinson did the invocation. Chair Nesmith proceeded with the Pledge of Allegiance of the U.S flag.

Amendments and Approval of Agenda

Mr. Dixon said there were no amendments to the agenda.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND CHAIR NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

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 January 5, 2023. 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 the above statement.

General Business

1. Presentation regarding the Gadsden County Senior Citizens Foundation

(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator/LaToya Fryson)

Mr. Dixon said the question was if, and if so, under what circumstances, can a one-time payment be given? They looked at all the situation that were presented before them.

Commissioner Simpkins stepped out at 4:06 p.m.

He talked about the presentation. He said they are moving as if they do not have the grants and working at every end to assure that they will get the grants. In the meantime, to run the program for the next year will cost about \$475,000 over the next two years without any grant money brought forward. His first recommendation is not to do anything; they are investing a lot of money into that program. However, should the board decide to make that investment, they put before them a number of options at certain levels.

Commissioner Simpkins in at 4:08 p.m.

Commissioner Holt in at 4:08 p.m.

Mr. Dixon walked through how they laid out the program.

Homestyle cooked meals: \$175,000
Carver Height Community Center enhancements: \$20,000
Transportation: \$30,000
Supplemental Utility Assistance: \$50,000

Staff recommendation contemplates a one-time payment of \$100 to 1,000 seniors to be distributed on a first come first serve basis that totals \$100,000.

Commissioner Green thanked them for the work they put into the package. He said he is puzzled, he is glad to see a long-term program, but his biggest concern would be the 1,000 people. He heard about 11,000 seniors could possibly fit in the category. He asked how will they determine who is first come first serve?

Commissioner Simpkins knows this will be done under the Gadsden County Senior Citizens foundation and asked if they have incorporated it? Mr. Dixon said yes. Commissioner Simpkins said it is not showing in the system with the Florida Division of Corporations. Mr. Dixon said they are experiencing back log, they submitted the information, but they asked him to wait. Commissioner Simpkins said she spoke to someone responsible for putting the information in. It is a concern for her that they are not incorporated yet.

Commissioner Hinson said that the County Administrator said it was incorporated and Commissioner Simpkins said it wasn't. He said Mr. Dixon just told her it was incorporated, then he said there was some difficulties. He said that gives him heartburns that the County Administrator would tell a commissioner, with authority, something that is maybe a problem.

Mr. Dixon said they submitted it about a week and a half ago. He said it was submitted electronically and he will follow up. He said they will not use it if it has not been incorporated.

Commissioner Green said even if it has not been incorporated, it should not stop them from planning. He doesn't want that to prohibit them from having the discussion.

Commissioner Holt said they must have a program. The seniors always come to them. They need to choose a good plan. To have a program in place, they can decide on what the qualifications can be. She said commissioners should never choose, there should be a system in place. It should be first come, first qualify. Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Dixon if they are pulling monies from funds that are not reoccurring? Mr. Dixon said yes. Commissioner Holt said they need to make sure they start applying now. She would love to see a building applied for Havana and Chattahoochee. She asked how do they fund some of this that may not be there later? Mr. Dixon said they are not only getting the money from the congregate living side but getting it from the home health side as well. That is a lot more of recurring monies that they have not even budgeted. The board usually puts in \$100,000 into senior programs across the county. A \$75,000 jump is not a lot, should they get the grant. Should they not get the grant, they would have to re-visit how they funded in the future in terms of recurring money. Commissioner Holt said for Medicare/Medicaid, there are some possibilities, that for every dollar they send out to Medicaid they get back \$2.49. She thinks this is way overdue.

Chair Nesmith asked if the fund is \$75,000? Mr. Dixon said yes. He asked for the allotment last year? Mr. Dixon said \$100,000 across all 4 units. Chair Nesmith asked what additional revenue did Gadsden Senior Services bring in? Mr. Dixon said congregate living and home health. Chair Nesmith asked what was the total? Mr. Dixon said \$500,000.

Commissioner Hinson said he has to see information in front of him. He said incorporation is important because if they are not incorporated, they can't receive \$10,000. Attorney Knowles said he doesn't think you can receive any money if you're not incorporated. He said the Clerk can see how much money is being distributed. He asked Attorney Knowles if non-profits can be audited and Mr. Knowles said it depends on how the money was directed to them. Commissioner Hinson said they have programs out there that can help the seniors. He said they are taking away from one non-profit and giving to another non-profit so that they can get the same people on the same board. His heart is with the senior citizens and he doesn't want them to be misled.

Commissioner Simpkins said she asked the question because she needed to know, it was not to seize the discussion. Her heart is with the seniors and she wants to make sure they are doing it correctly. She asked how will they make sure this program will jail all of the seniors in the county that is participating in the programs so that they are all receiving the services available? Mr. Dixon said enrollment is through the Gadsden Senior Services Program. Mr. Dixon said he is looking at the future view of the Foundation taking over the program.

Commissioner Holt said any organization that receives funds have to do a background check. She said non-profits can be audited. Any organization that receives public funds can be audited.

Chair Nesmith said they had this discussion and they requested that they had to have reporting.

Commissioner Green wanted to make sure they were understood. They all have seniors making choices to attend whatever center they want to attend. It is their job to make sure that every senior in this County gets the same treatment. There will be a registration process.

Chair Nesmith said any senior can call. It is not location specific. Mr. Dixon confirmed it is for any senior. It is the easiest way not to have to build a system.

Commissioner Green said this foundation will take care of what people already thought was theirs. There needs to be something under their umbrella for responsibility.

Commissioner Simpkins wanted to make sure all of the seniors have choices and be taken care of. She wants to make sure all of the seniors, it doesn't matter where, that they all receive services. She asked what is the status of Gadsden Senior Services? Mr. Dixon said it is still operating. Commissioner Simpkins asked if it will still be operating once the foundation is incorporated? He said the foundation will take over some services from Gadsden Senior Services.

Chair Nesmith said they all went door to door and were voted in and they represent the entire county. While they were presenting their resumes, they were able to interact with them. They can all agree that the seniors need resources and programs. Long-term programs are essential to the wellbeing of seniors.

Commissioner Green asked after they have the incorporation with the proper title, when will it be on the agenda? He is asking that because this is their time now to have this dialogue so they don't repeat the conversation. Mr. Dixon said they anticipate it be on the agenda this month, but it looks like it will be maybe the first meeting in February. They will know what the budget is since it will be a budget change issue if they decide on it. Commissioner Green asked this because they are workshopping and

they should get their concerns out now. Mr. Dixon said they will have the final package before that vote. Commissioner Nesmith asked, when allocations were made to Gadsden Senior Services, what reporting did they receive on a regular basis? Mr. Dixon said not much, that was part of the problem. They would put money out and there would be no response. He said Mrs. Blackshear's first year here was looking at how the money was expensed. This set up is different; the head of the non-profit is the director of Elder Affairs. They expect that there will be accountability at every level from the county to the non-profit. That surety is the reason they went with this kind of model to be sure.

Chair Nesmith confirmed every year they funded the program. He also confirmed that Carver Heights is not owned by the county. It is owned by a private community group. Commissioner Hinson confirmed it was built in 1978.

Commissioner Simpkins stepped out at 5:13 p.m.

Chair Nesmith confirmed that they just provide \$10,000 every year to the facility. Chair Nesmith said the estimate of work will be about \$20,000. Mr. Dixon said that's what they can do now. Then, they would get their permission to enter them as a part of their legislative package so they can expand and excel the building.

Commissioner Simpkins back at 5:15 p.m.

Commissioner Holt asked for information on the building in Gretna. Mr. Dixon said they met with the city managers from across the county. The City of Quincy has put up \$50,000 toward the local program in Quincy. They are encouraging every other city. Commissioner Holt suggested if they give staff assignments, they need to make sure they take these assignments seriously.

Chair Nesmith said he's excited because now they are talking about programs.

Commissioner Hinson said they have to be fair about different cities. Midway was given a bad hand.

Commissioner Simpkins said they were only funded for two years. She asked if they will be applying for the grants? Mr. Dixon said the foundation will and the county will as well. It creates the opportunity for both of them to apply. Commissioner Simpkins asked if they know where this funding will be coming from? Ms. Daniels said they would have to designate where it would come from. She asked what's the current amount? Ms. Daniels said a total of about \$100,000 and \$6,000 for liability insurance for the Quincy location.

Commissioner Green asked about Midway. He was wondering what the seniors in Midway could participate in? They need to make sure they are including them for senior services. Where do they meet and how often they are open? Ms. Fletcher said Midway was meeting with Pastor Lamb. It is a multipurpose building. They possibly have one of the churches volunteers for activities. Commissioner Hinson said they send food out to the elders that can't come. They built the extra building just for that.

Commissioner Holt said Midway was getting some funding, not Greensboro. She said they need to know what their schedules are. She said they need to see if they can get some funding themselves. She said they need to look on Google.

Commissioner Nesmith asked about homestyle cooking. Do they have programs on teaching them how to cook healthy? Mr. Dixon said they do.

Commissioner Green wanted to make sure with the PIO if they can put the activities on website. He asked if they knew if Midway is currently active? Commissioner Hinson said yes. Mr. Dixon said the website is being developed.

Commissioner Hinson said they fund other groups and created those groups. When they reach capacity, they do what they want. It is difficult to reach them. They need to put something in writing that if they break away, the organization has to dissolve.

Commissioner Simpkins wanted to make sure they are including Midway so that they are able to sustain. Mr. Dixon said they don't anticipate to pull funding. They need to make sure they are receiving a report at least quarterly. Mr. Dixon said article stipulates that the board is created to serve the Elder Affairs program of Gadsden County.

Commissioner Holt wants to build up a lot more than they are funding them now. They can always decide not to fund any organization.

Commissioner Simpkins out at 5:47pm.

Commissioner Hinson reiterated his point on non-profits leaving the Board of County Commissioners. He said there should be a paper written up on some stipulations.

Commissioner Simpkins returned at 5:51pm.

- a. Gadsden County Senior Citizens Foundation Board Members
- b. Gadsden County Senior Citizens Foundation Articles of Incorporation

2. Questions/Comments

Motion to Adjourn

WITH NO FURTHER DISCUSSION TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH ADJOURNED THE WORKSHOP AT 5:52 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

KIMBLIN NESMITH, Chair

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A WORKSHOP OF THE PLANNING
COMMISSION HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FL ON JANUARY 12, 2023 AT 6:00
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS
HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Lori Bouie, Vice-Chair, District 5
Eugene Sherman III, District 1
Tracey Stallworth, District 2
Mark Moore, District 3
Wayne Williams, District 3
Charles Roberts, At Large
Karema Dudley, School Board Representative

Staff Present: Justin Stiell, Planning and Zoning Director
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Crystal Jimenez, Deputy Clerk

Not Present: John Youmans, District 2
Rev. Dr. Joe Parramore, Chair, District 5
William Chukes, District 1
Anthony Powell, District 4

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Vice Chair Bouie welcomed everyone to the meeting at 6:00 p.m. She proceeded with the Pledge of Allegiance of the U.S. flag.
2. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS – Roll Call
The roll call was completed by the clerk.
3. MINUTES – December 15, 2022 ITEM 3
Attorney Knowles stated they cannot approve minutes since it is not an official meeting.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

4. N/A

GENERAL BUSINESS

4. TRAINING AND EDUCATION
Mr. Stiell said since there is no quorum they will continue as a workshop. He asked everyone what training they brought to the meeting and asked them to go around and say what training opportunities they have.

Vice Chair Bouie went online in 2019 the Florida Chapter of the American Planning Association had their training in Destin, FL. They will be having a virtual training in February and the state training on September 5th-9th. She would like for the county entertain it and attend. If not February, they can consider the September training.

Commissioner Sherman thanked Mr. Stiell for putting the workshop together. In addition to those points, he would like something that talks about the comprehensive plan and land development code. He said they entertained some items before to discuss what they could do and which required other activities related to the state. He would like to be better versed in those to make more informed decisions.

Commissioner Moore did not have anything.

Commissioner Dudley said he needs training all together. She needs training so that she can understand her responsibilities. She wants to learn all of the things she needs to in order to be effective in this role.

Commissioner Roberts thoughts were pertained in the packet. He mainly wants training on making decisions.

Commissioner Williams said the same thing. He said it would be good for new comers to have a broad overview of what they are going to be dealing with because he didn't get that. He learned on the go. He said they can catch on pretty well but he's mostly interested in information being brought forward and making sure they get it in a timely manner.

Vice Chair Bouie said they should have an overview training. Most of them are active in the community and have roles they play outside of this role. She said it would be effective to go over procedures. They have to learn the language because there are things she doesn't remember. It is new for Mr. Stiell as well so they can learn together. There are times they have to submit information to the state but she doesn't remember the terminology. She is also interested in the procedure for a citizen or a business to come to the planning commission and what they have to do.

Commissioner Stallworth entered at 6:08 p.m.

She wants to know the procedures so that they can make recommendations on how Gadsden County can be more appealing to businesses and why business overlook our county.

Commissioner Stallworth said he did not have any training ideas at this time. He was looking at a few but is waiting for them to call back from Duval County. He would love to have in-person training. Vice Chair Bouie informed him of the training in September.

Commissioner Sherman said they don't get too deep into Roberts rules in terms of actions. He asked Attorney Knowles if it is appropriate to ask him if they need guidance?

Attorney Knowles said if they have legal questions, it is his job to help them. He likes to tell commissioners that he doesn't like to interject the point of order unless asked. He is not going to jump in, unless it is needed. He said it would be a good part of training. He said for them to try not to do it in email with other commissioners. They need to send it to him, then he will send an answer out to everybody.

Vice Chair Bouie reiterated that they should have an overview training. Mr. Stiell said that helps him plan. They will prepare a copy of the land development code for everyone at the next meeting. They can go into chapter 163. He doesn't know if they can do the February training. They will look at it and see. It is something that will have to go to the Board of County Commissioners for their review and approval. The training packet is online and he understands Commissioner Stallworth. It will give them a deep dive on what a planning commissioner should know. If there is something they want to talk about in person, he asked that they bring it to his attention. The next meeting will have several quasi-judicial and judicial items so there will be a public hearing. Vice Chair Bouie asked him to explain quasi-judicial. Attorney Knowles explained the two types of hearings quasi-judicial and legislative. He said with legislative hearings, they can make a decision based on their feelings of a particular item and weigh the evidence as best as they can based on how they feel. It's a little bit different when they get in the quasi-judicial realm because then they need to approve or not approve that particular item based on an evaluation of the code of which they use. Quasi-judicial hearings' time limit is also not as stringent. He said they have to give them the opportunity to speak and have their issue be heard. He said when they advertise the quasi-judicial hearings, there is a notice at the bottom that says "If you wish to challenge the decision of this board based upon their decision that they make tonight, they have to have a court reporter." Typically, quasi-judicial hearings will have a certified court reporter who is taking a transcript of what happens in this board and the Board of County Commissioners. The main difference will be how they make their decisions.

Vice Chair Bouie asked about liquor stores. If someone was coming before them and their business was less than 1,000 feet from a neighborhood, would they be made aware if there is a ruling for that. Mr. Stiell said yes, there is an ordinance that guides liquor stores.

Commissioner Moore asked if a quasi-judicial hearing comes before them, would they be provided with the codes? Mr. Stiell said yes it will be part of their packet. Commissioner Moore said he has been reading muni codes and it is hard. Mr. Stiell said land development codes should be easier to read.

Commissioner Sherman said there were some meetings where there were some potential impacts on comprehensive planning. He said if they can have more time to digest and process.

Vice Chair Bouie said if they are receiving the information 7-10 days prior to the meeting, is it proper if they contact him if they don't understand the information? Mr. Stiell said yes. Attorney Knowles said they will also know if it is a quasi-judicial hearing because the clerk will swear in all the witnesses. Vice Chair Bouie said there should be an overview on ethics. She said she received phone calls that they should not be discussing upcoming business with the public. Attorney Knowles said in legislative hearings, they can speak with people about the issues. In the quasi-judicial, it's not that they can't do it, but they need to announce it. He said maybe there could be some training on ethics.

Vice Chair Bouie asked Mr. Stiell if they can come in 30 minutes early and review it here. Mr. Stiell said he can look into that. He said there are quizzes that go along with them.

Commissioner Stallworth asked how much is the course. Mr. Stiell doesn't have the exact amount.

Mr. Stiell said that concludes what he has, he asked for any other questions. Commissioner Sherman said for him not to take them through the whole book, just the highlights. Vice Chair Bouie asked if Gadsden County have rules that they should use on how they are holding a meeting. Vice Chair Bouie said in addition to the training, she is interested in the process. She wants to know if they can mimic an applicant coming in. Mr. Stiell said everyone gets a form that explains what they need to do. Attorney Knowles said legislative hearing is announcing it is a public hearing. The evidence production would be different. They are not strict with the evidence code, so they don't need to use everything that's in it.

Vice Chair Bouie said they could maybe have a workshop so they can develop their procedures. Commissioner Sherman said if they wanted to strengthen their decision-making process. If they are doing it successfully, good. Vice Chair Bouie asked on having an opportunity to have input. The biggest thing is filibustering.

Mr. Stiell will present as best he can and allow them to make their decisions. Commissioner Moore said because of last meeting, he asked if any applications have come in this month? Mr. Stiell said no, they are still reviewing the current applications. Vice Chair Bouie asked if they have the ability to review the codes? Attorney Knowles said absolutely. In the past, she has asked for a review. Vice Chair Bouie said she is envisioning a workshop to look at it together. Mr. Stiell said if they can identify what would be most beneficial. Attorney Knowles said it could be as simple as what can they do to foster development? Vice Chair said why wasn't Gadsden County appealing to Amazon. She asked why are major businesses overlooking Gadsden County? Also, they need to review the cost of the application process.

Commissioner Roberts said when dealing with the RV park in Lake Talquin, the usage of the term amendment, but they never say exception to policy. If you amend the policy, you change it for everybody. You can simply make an exception to policy based on a voted-on

criteria. Mr. Stiell said they would have to establish the policy to say what those criteria would be. Vice Chair Bouie said they have tried to do that before but it still goes before the Board of County Commission and they may not agree.

Commissioner Stallworth said he does a lot of community outreach work. There was a huge homeless population on King St. He said Amazon could have been helpful with jobs in our area. Vice Chair Bouie said they relate that to the lack of successful applications. Commissioner Sherman appreciated Mr. Stiell.

5. PLANNING DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Mr. Stiell said he looks forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting. He said Commissioner Hayes has joined the county and will no longer be a commissioner.

6. PLANNING COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

No comments from commissioners.

Vice Chair Bouie thanked everyone for all that they do.

7. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Vice Chair Bouie ended the workshop at 6:53 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is February 16, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

JOE PARRAMORE, Chair

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JANUARY 17, 2023, THE
FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Kimblin NeSmith, Chair, District 3
Eric Hinson, Vice-Chair, District 1
Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2
Brenda Holt, District 4
Ronterious "Ron" Green, District 5
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Nicholas Thomas, Clerk
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk
Crystal Jimenez, Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair NeSmith called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm., Invocation was given by Commissioner Hinson, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

CONSENT

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD A QUESTION BUT STATED HE COULD WAIT UNTIL HIS COMMENTS FOR DISCUSSION. CHAIR NESMITH CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

- 1. Ratification Memo**
- 2. Approval of Minutes**
 - December 20, 2022 Regular Meeting**
- 3. Approval and Signatures for SHIP/ER/First-time Homebuyer Programs Liens and Contracts**
- 4. E911 Recorder Maintenance Grant Award Agreement & Interaction Insight Corporation Support Agreement**
- 5. Gadsden County Sheriff's Office Training Funding Request for Homicide Investigation**
- 6. Gadsden County Sheriff's Office Training Funding Request for Florida SWAT Association Hathcock Sniper Course**

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 17, 2023. 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.

Mr. Dixon read the above statement aloud.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

7. Appointment to the Apalachee Regional Planning Council

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for board approval for the appointment/reappointments for the Apalachee Regional Planning Council. He explained Gadsden County is entitled to have three representatives; two are appointed locally by the Board of County Commissioners; one must be a County elected official and one must be a municipal elected official. The Governor appoints a third representative. The City of Quincy wanted to recommend Commissioner Anessa Canidate. Commissioner Holt is currently serving on the Board and did not have a problem with continuing to serve but said an alternate was needed. Commissioner Hinson said he was the alternate.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO KEEP COMMISSIONER HOLT AS THE REPRESENTATIVE AND COMMISSIONER HINSON TO SERVE AS THE ALTERNATE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner Simpkins understood the Agenda item to read that the same people would serve on this board and the Transportation Disadvantaged. Mr. Dixon said no, this appointment was to ARPC and Transportation Disadvantaged was a separate item.

Commissioner Hinson said Commissioner Simpkins made a point. If they approve the item, they become the same representatives for both boards.

Commissioner Holt said that was not one of the options.

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

8. Appointment to the Apalachee Regional Planning Council-Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated that Commissioner Hinson was currently serving on that board. He was asked if he was interested in continuing, he said yes.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPOINT COMMISSIONER HINSON AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS AS THE ALTERNATE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

9. Appointment to the Capital Regional Transportation Planning Agency

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval of an appointed BOCC Commissioner to the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA).

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT TO APPOINT COMMISSIONER HINSON AS THE REPRESENTATIVE AND CHAIR NESMITH AS THE ALTERNATE, COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

CLERK OF COURT

10. Updates

Chair Nesmith asked Mr. Thomas if he had any updates. Mr. Thomas appeared before the Board and wanted to mention ARP (American Rescue Plan). He stated there is a time frame and money that has to be spent by December 30, 2024. Mr. Thomas stated he was going to send them a memo. The Library was paid off and was pledged with the half cent sales tax. He said overtime revenue increased and the transfer back to general funds was not increased over time and has accumulated funds that need to be closed out this fiscal year.

Commissioner Hinson said it has been a great year. At the last meeting, Commissioner Simpkins expressed her concerns and every meeting he brings it up. With the \$5.9 million, was it plausible to have a community center on the east and west side of Gadsden County? Mr. Thomas said there was some restrictions but was something they should look at seriously. Commissioner Hinson said the board went to a conference and they talked about mental health and at the conference they encouraged the board to put money for the kids. He thinks they could put a community center in sawdust and Havana. Coalition between mental health and COVID. Mr. Thomas said Mr. Knowles could look into it.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if he could clarify the indigent tax money they have. Mr. Thomas said since they renewed/restructured the contract with CRMC, there was money going to Capital Regional that they no longer wanted, they were making enough money as an emergency room. He said when they received government money, they had to be accountable for it and they did not want to expand services, they were satisfied with an emergency room. He said the County was giving them \$200,000 and in return they were giving the county back \$200,000 in rent that went to the General Fund. With the rest of the money, it could not be used for it just anything, it had to be indigent health care related. He said he thought the accumulation was now around \$2.2 Million and the Board has not addressed it yet. He has suggested in the past that they look at the Ordinance, the Statute and the health plan because this was something that was put on the ballot and people had an expectation for a hospital. He said before divvying up the money to different entities, once people realize they have it, people will start coming to them. He stated the main thing they need to determine was whether or not they wanted to do anything more with the hospital in terms of rooms. He knew part of what they want to do was put a shelter in but was sure it would not take up all of the unused space. He said the question was did they want to put facilities in place to go back to CRMC and show it was available or have new negotiations with them. He felt they needed to decide about the hospital first. He said in

his opinion, if they were not going to do anything more with the hospital which was the primary reason the tax was voted on, they ought to consider paying off the \$4.5 million debt service and rescinding the tax.

Commissioner Holt said this was one time they agreed. They should look at the indigent care and they need to revisit the whole issue.

Commissioner Green said he was interested in them pursuing the opportunity of having a hospital. He said Blountstown was getting a state-of-the-art facility as a hospital and asked if something like the Bond Clinic was possible. He said they could come back to the table and workshop having a working hospital not just an emergency room. Mr. Thomas said they should prioritize the hospital and make that clear before they start doing other things with the money.

Commissioner Hinson said there was a lot of money for infrastructure projects and they would not have to use general funds for anything.

Mr. Thomas said ARP (American Rescue Plan) money could be used for hospitals.

Chair Nesmith recognized Mr. Derrick Elias in the audience and thanked him for his service and everything he has done for the citizens of Gadsden County.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

11 Updates

Mr. Dixon said they will be receiving their tentative calendars for multiple workshops and there will be some on Saturdays and some back-to-back days.

He said Congressman Dunn will be here tomorrow at 3 PM and Thursday will be the Gadsden Legislative Delegation Meeting with Representative Gallop Franklin and Senator Corey Simon. He said the public is invited to the Thursday meeting. Commissioner Hinson asked if there was anything for Midway for infrastructure. Mr. Dixon said Midway remains the number 1 project for sewage. Ms. Steele said they are waiting on their paperwork.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

12 Updates

Mr. Knowles stated he had nothing to report and there were no questions for him.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

13. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2

Commissioner Simpkins: Few things, I received those, and I know you received them too, emails from Chris Nolan and the RAISE (Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity) grant. Have we taken a look at the RAISE grant that is out there and is available to local government? The local government is able to apply directly and I think that deadline is probably

coming up soon. Do we have someone that researches grants for us? Do we have someone, yes, I'm sorry.

Mr. Dixon: I'm not familiar with RAISE.

Commissioner Simpkins: It's in infrastructure, you go to Transportation.gov, it's on that website but it is an application that is out there that I think we need to take a look at.

Mr. Dixon: OK, I'll get our engineers to...

Chair NeSmith: Commissioner Green, did you have your hand up because you had additional information that could assist Commissioner Simpkins?

Commissioner Green: Well, I was trying to see if that was the same grant that I sent information over to the Administrator.

Mr. Dixon: We sent that out to the engineers to look at.

Commissioner Green: OK, because I was trying to go back to my email to see if it was the same grant that I had already sent...

Mr. Dixon: That might be it.

Commissioner Simpkins: OK, because it's due like next month I think.

Commissioner Dixon: Yeah, that's it, I think it's the same one, we've sent it out to the engineers.

Commissioner Simpkins: Mr. Administrator, I know you have been working with the fire chief in some of the municipalities as it relates to the fire ISO ratings and I have still been in communication with insurance companies just trying to get clarification on the fire rating. I did receive some clarification that the astronomical increase is not from the rating itself, from the ISO rating, however, some people did not get dropped because that rating came out late. So, I want to make sure that when our citizens go to reapply next year for their insurance that we do not have any fire departments with a 10 rating so that they will be able to renew their insurance. They kind of were able to slide through this year. So, I want to make sure that it is a top priority for us to be taking a look at all of them. I know that we are doing a pilot in the St. Johns area but I want to make sure that we are doing what needs to be done in each of the areas with the fire departments.

Mr. Dixon: We all know about the historic increase that has happened to homeowner's insurance. What also happened was a re-inventory by ISO, which is an insurance organization, a rating of our fire departments. If the fire department did not have four certified fire fighters on call, then you were delinquent let's just say, out of order. That caught a lot of our fire departments because most of them do not have four certified firemen every night, they are a volunteer fire department. So, what we have already been talking about fire rescue, as you all know, and how to use EMS to begin the process of rethinking our fire rescue situation in Midway and Havana and those are just the big areas, but also in the unincorporated areas. The chiefs met with the volunteer chiefs to talk about what happened, why it happened and how we

can fix it. We've got some strategies coming into place now and in the long term, I think in the last meeting we met with the cities, because the city's push out 5 miles outside of their border to cover the County as well. So, us helping the cities help in the unincorporated area. We're looking at the piloting out in St. John's because that's one of the areas that is not covered. When you go from St. Johns over to Robertsville and then over to Greenshade, that area is totally uncovered. So, what we're hoping to do in the next few months is not only put in place some strategies and tactics, but again, to work with the City of Quincy who covers that area for us, if you can believe it or not, all the way out to Greenshade and we need to find a better answer to that, a better response. All of the fire chiefs are looking for better responses. We're talking to them about what we can do and how we're going to do it. We asked you all the other day to approve the opportunity for us to go and get more positions, that's what Chief Hood asked for the other night so that we can push out and figure out how to better improve the service. Because otherwise those tactics are just tactics, our response to fire did not improve any. Hopefully, with 1, 2 or three of those positions added, we can begin the process of reallocating or reorganizing our fire/rescue situation and improving ISO's all across the county.

Chair NeSmith: Alright, any follow-up? Commissioner Simpkins?

Commissioner Simpkins: That's all for that. Thank you. The success of our County depends on us working together. When I decided to seek this office, it was for the citizens of Gadsden County and to make the decisions that was best for all of the citizens in Gadsden County and when I sit here, I take it very seriously. Within the last couple of weeks, and I'm sure you all have received the same information that I have received, one and I just have a question because I want to make sure that we are following what we should be following. I received an email in regards to the Health Council and employment that there was supposed to be a resignation from the Health Council prior to a letter being given to someone cancelling a contract. I wasn't on the Board; however, it was one that I just happened to listen in on and I've gone back and just kind of read the information. I want to make sure, Mr. Attorney, because I think this was something you brought up. As the Administrator, is he able to serve as a Project Director for an organization?

Mr. Knowles: So, no ma'am, there is no dual employment for the Chief Officer of the County. That's not allowed.

Commissioner Simpkins: So, Mr. Administrator, of course I don't have the email pulled up here, but I received an email and on that email, it had your signature with you stating that the person's contract was null and void and it was after the date, I mean you were employed as the Administrator at that time, so could you kind of share..., am I the only, maybe I'm the only one that received it.

Commissioner Hinson: No, I received it too.

Mr. Dixon: I didn't receive it.

Commissioner Simpkins: You didn't receive it?

(Mr. Dixon started to talk and Chair NeSmith asked him to let Commissioner Simpkins get her questions asked because he was not familiar with the email.)

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
January 17, 2023 – Regular Meeting

Commissioner Simpkins: You didn't receive it?

Chair NeSmith: No ma'am, I didn't receive it.

Chair Green: Neither did I.

Chair NeSmith: Commissioner Green...Commissioner Hinson, are you aware what Commissioner Simpkins is talking about?

Commissioner Hinson: Yeah, I'm aware.

Chair NeSmith: Commissioner Holt, are you aware?

Commissioner Holt: I hadn't seen it.

Commissioner Simpkins: Oh, ok, because the email I received had the... maybe it didn't come through because it had everyone else's e-mail on it so that's why...

Chair NeSmith: When was it sent Commissioner Simpkins?

Commissioner Hinson: I think she cc'd all the Commissioners at the time from what I saw. I'm surprised you didn't receive it.

Chair NeSmith: Do you have a...

Commissioner Simpkins: I'm looking.

Chair NeSmith: Commissioner Hinson, do you have a date?

Commissioner Hinson: One second, I saw (inaudible)

Commissioner Simpkins: While I'm looking for that, can he (indicated toward Mr. Dixon)

Chair NeSmith: Oh sure, Mr. Administrator,

Mr. Dixon: While I will certainly not discuss an employee issue of any kind, I can assure you and I did assure you, at your request, that I did resign the position as Executive Director, ah, however I also informed the Board that the contracts had my name on it and that I would continue as a volunteer only. As the project director, I was not being compensated, I have not received any form of money or anything else as such. I'm pretty sure I can as a volunteer and that job was my voluntary service and I've treated it as such.

Commissioner Simpkins: I have, I've worked with nonprofits for quite a while and I have never, ever, and we have had volunteers to work with nonprofits and I've never had a volunteer to cancel a contract. That's not something that I've ever heard a volunteer doing. I just can't see that a volunteer with a, I go in and I say I'm working with the Boys and Girls Club and they have a contract and they say 'Ms. Simpkins can you cancel this contract for me?' Once you end employment, then they then have someone else that takes that responsibility, not remain as a

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
January 17, 2023 – Regular Meeting

volunteer. That, I've just never heard. I'm still looking so that I can forward this email to you. I received it and I think it was after it was actually sent over. I received it on the 6th but I...

Chair NeSmith: Commissioner Hinson, have you been able to find your copy?

Commissioner Hinson: I don't have my computer with me, I apologize, but I did receive it. If I'm not mistaken, at the beginning of the year he was the Executive Director at one point (inaudible). There were some things that was said, that's why I (inaudible) surprised but maybe there was something going on. Also, that board was sending emails to the Board of County Commissioners the Board as his name as executive director.

Chair NeSmith: Commissioner Green?

Commissioner Green: I'm really searching for this email; do you know what month it was sent because we get a plethora of emails daily.

Commissioner Simpkins: I'm showing the 4th of January.

Chair NeSmith: While you're looking for that ah, Commissioner Holt?

Commissioner Holt: Yes, thank you. Commissioner, could you possibly just send that to us now?

Commissioner Simpkins: I can.

Commissioner Green: Send it to the attorney.

Mr. Knowles: No, no, no, if you wouldn't mind Commissioner Simpkins, just to avoid a sunshine violation, if you can send it to me and I will forward it on to the Commissioners. That would be a little bit better. Sorry Commissioner Holt.

Commissioner Holt: OK, that'll work. That's great. I had a question for you anyway. Mr. Attorney?

Mr. Knowles: Yes ma'am?

Commissioner Holt: Is there anything that you can think of in the State Statute that says that a volunteer for an organization cannot end a contract?

Mr. Knowles: No ma'am.

Commissioner Holt: I don't know of one either, I thought maybe I missed something. In this, if you are volunteering, that's not dual employment. If you are getting paid, that is dual employment. Now, I'm not trying to take up for Mr. Dixon because he can take up for himself. But what I am saying is this, when we hired him he was working for the Health Council, ok? Then when we hired him and it was brought up that his employment could not be dual employed, then he said he turned in his resignation. Mr. Dixon, if I may Mr. Chairman, they do have a copy of your resignation, right?

Mr. Dixon: Yes ma'am.

Commissioner Holt: OK, so, if he's not getting paid and the attorney says he can end contracts, he can end contracts. That is up to that organization on how they want to use that volunteer. If he's not getting paid, or anyone for that matter, is not getting paid are they perceived as employed or are they perceived as some advantage by being a part of any organization by monetary value in whatever you're getting. So, if these things do or do not apply or it there something that needs to be brought back, if it doesn't need to be brought back then we need to go ahead and seek a legal opinion. So, Mr. Attorney, do you have a legal opinion? If a person is not getting paid to work for an organization, are they employed? They are not getting a company car, they are not getting any advantages, is there anything saying that they are employed?

Mr. Knowles: Well, two things, let me clarify. I'm not aware of the State statute that prohibits a volunteer from terminating a contract. I think that was the question you asked. I'm not saying that a volunteer can terminate, I'm not aware of the State statute that deals with that that would prohibit that. Let me be clear. Your second question was?

Commissioner Holt: My second question is, there may or may not be a State statute so let's just go ahead and say that you're not aware of any, I don't know of any, the first thing I'll do is google. If there is not something that is found that is available anywhere on this phone and anyone at home can google it to find out. But, there is nothing, unless if that person is volunteering for the organization, can they not end a contract, whatever that organization have them to do, that's really up to that organization and the person, is it not?

Mr. Knowles: I imagine so, the organization can decide to do what they want. If you would like me to research that issue, I don't want to be bound by an opinion. I can research that issue for you to be certain, I don't want to give you a yes or no right here. That is a fairly broad issue, a fairly broad question, but I would imagine that an organization can do what they want to do with regard to that. But I can look it up...

Commissioner Holt: Don't, don't worry about it, I will too and I bet I'll have two other attorneys doing the same thing.

Mr. Knowles: Well, all I'm going to say is to be careful with that.

Commissioner Holt: I know, but I'm going to ask anyway. I need opinions.

Mr. Knowles: I understand. But they shouldn't tell you that, that's a Bar violation, so...

Commissioner Holt: No, no, no, they're not...

Mr. Knowles: They shouldn't talk with a represented client...

Commissioner Holt: Wait a minute, hold on, a represented client? They're not going to be my client...

Mr. Knowles: But you're discussing Board actions with them...

Commissioner Holt: Right...

Mr. Knowles: They should not talk with you, you can talk with them. I'm just saying if they do that, I have to report that as a Bar violation against them.

Commissioner Holt: We'll get to that later, we'll get to that later because I'm going to ask questions of everybody walking (inaudible), whatever. What I wanted to say is, that since this is brought up in a public meeting it should be researched anyway...

Mr. Knowles: I'll be happy to research it and...

Commissioner Holt: So, I think that is something that we can easily do, but thank you Sir.

Chair NeSmith: Thank you Commissioner, and before I go to Commissioner Green and Commissioner Hinson, when you locate it Commissioner Simpkins could you forward it to the attorney?

Commissioner Simpkins: Yes.

Chair NeSmith: Commissioner Green and Commissioner Hinson...

Commissioner Green: OK, so, I guess I just want clarity and you stated already in reference to it, because it seems like this just will not go away. You stated that you're volunteering and we're having a discussion openly. I just want you to say it again, there was no pay involved. There has been no pay involved.

Mr. Dixon: Zero

Commissioner Green: There has been no stipends, no, I mean I just want that, because I just wanted to be openly said and that it be known because, in essence, I think the problem is really going to become is the opposite of what you are saying. So, I just want to be clear and that, I know we got the resignation and I think, we had a discussion a while back about there were some projects that were not completed and that's why you were going to volunteer to make sure that those projects were completed and after those projects were completed, you would then, I guess they would go on and do what they have to do as a board or as an organization. But I just wanted to be clear...

Mr. Dixon: February of this year...

Commissioner Green: Say that one more time?

Mr. Dixon: February of this year...

Commissioner Green: February of this year those projects should be completed. Again, I only asked that question because as I stated, it resurfaced, and...Thank you.

Chair NeSmith: Mr. Administrator? Obviously, I have not seen this email. With the Letter of Resignation when it was submitted to the Health Council, did you forward a copy of the resignation to all the board members, all of the commissioners?

Mr. Dixon: I think I sent it to the Chairman.

Chair NeSmith: You sent it to the Chair, and the Chair at that time was Dr. Viegbesie?

Mr. Dixon: Yes

Chair NeSmith: Can you send that original resignation to all the Commissioners?

Mr. Dixon: Yes.

Chair NeSmith: OK, send the original resignation to all the Commissioners so there will not be any questions. Ah, Commissioner Hinson and then Commissioner Simpkins.

Commissioner Hinson: Yes, I received the same thing, I'm just trying to do, to ask the questions that the citizens asked. The issue here at hand is influence more so than monetary value. If I represent an organization and even if I don't get paid but I've got my influence will make a move of dollar bills is just as important, I think. Mr. Attorney can look at that as well of the influence of being there. Because what happened here, is that the influence, because if we move money, the Board suggested that we keep the \$250,000 or whatever it was and at one point if I recall it right the board keep the van or whatever the van cost, the RV, \$250,000, would be in Board custody.

Mr. Knowles: The health unit?

Commissioner Hinson: The health unit, it will be in Board custody, right? So, that's why I have heartburn about the whole thing. So then, all of a sudden, 6-7 months later, the Board suggested that we move the Health Council, move the mobile health to the Health Council after we paid for it, after we did everything else, it was supposed to be here, at the Board of County Commissioners', right, and we're supposed to own it. Then we changed the vote so we can go back to that. I said it was kind of interesting that we give it to the health council (inaudible) leave us and they still own it. We gave the rights to the Health Council to own that facility. The influence, the influence is that we also carved out \$40,000-\$60,000 to give to the Health Council. The Board did that, right here. Influence, we get \$6,700 a month from the ½ cent sales tax. The reason I've got to say something, because by law we'll get in trouble if we do something improper, we got to make sure he's covering us more than anything else. So, \$6700 a month go directly to the Health Council, that's the ½ cent sales tax doing that, right? So, his influence, right, someone else can say a community center, but I think we can get funding for that, right? So, his influence, right, can easily impede someone else from an opportunity to get money from the half cent sales tax. So, it doesn't matter if you're getting a paycheck, because I looked at the Commission on Ethics, and (inaudible) a paycheck, if you are a part of the organization, if coming from you...I have a, I got something myself, just the appearance, I don't say, never get a dime, never even got a penny for it, never even thought of having a penny from it, but it's just the appearance of it, just the influence of it because we still can't have money going directly to it, even though you're probably not getting paid for it. So, ah, because of

opposition, I'm not sure, I'm not an attorney, I'd like for the attorney to look into that because people talking about it, you know, so, since we talking, I never even called it out, but since y'all talking, I've got to say something because it's here. I think we need to look into that and see, maybe see, because Commissioner Green having heartburn, I saw it in his heart he's really having heartburn about that. So, in trepidation, I think that it'd be great if we could, I know y'all were talking about looking into things, like we looked into the other stuff, you know, just calm the community down, if he can investigate, have someone to, I'm not sure what you think?

Mr. Knowles: On this issue?

Commissioner Hinson: I mean, I'm not sure what we need to do because I know people talking and I saw the letter, it's intense...

Chair NeSmith: Well, I think what we can do, Commissioner Hinson, at this point regarding this email, since several of us have not seen the email, when we receive it...

Commissioner Hinson: (inaudible)

Chair NeSmith: Yeah, because I'm not familiar with this email and I would like to see it and I would like to read it and then we can move forward. Just a quick question before I go to Commissioner Simpkins and then to Commissioner Holt; Mr. Administrator, I just want to reference a comment that Commissioner Hinson just stated. The health council did not receive a dime in this year's budget, is that correct or incorrect?

Mr. Dixon: You all requested that we not fund any non-profits.

Chair NeSmith: Right, until we create that process that we discussed.

Commissioner Hinson: What I was saying, this year, the Health Council received something after the fact, after that decision was made. We approved a lot of things in 2022 that benefit them.

Chair NeSmith: When you say they received something, you mean after our new budget cycle started they received...

Commissioner Hinson: First of all, they receive \$6,700 a month regardless. They receive \$6,700 a month in ½ cent sales tax. That's every month. Also, I think we changed some kind of policy, whatever, if I'm not mistaken and I didn't do too much research on it because I didn't think we're going to talk about it today, but we changed some things up with the health unit as well as some other things at the beginning of this year, ah, beginning of last year. So, there were some benefits that were there.

Chair NeSmith: So, Mr. Administrator, the \$6,700 from the half cent sales tax, bring some clarity to that please.

Mr. Dixon: Mr. Chairman, we have not sent anybody any money to my knowledge.

Chair NeSmith: OK.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
January 17, 2023 – Regular Meeting

Mr. Dixon: Secondly, the bus was funded by the State to the Health Council, not to the County. And the money, and the...so...

Chair NeSmith: OK, thank you.

Commissioner Hinson: Hold on, hold on, I saw, ah, that's inaccurate information. I'm not saying, I hate to go like this right but I've got to say this but he said they hadn't received anything. I saw a documentation that showed every month \$6700 going to them. That, first of all we need to talk about that next. And, two, the BOCC allocated, if I'm not mistaken, \$250,000 towards the Health Unit.

Chair NeSmith: What we're going to do Commissioner Hinson, because...

Commissioner Hinson: (inaudible) I don't want people to think Eric Hinson is lying.

Chair NeSmith: OK, so what we'll do, Commissioner Hinson, as soon as we get the email to the Commissioners, then we can gather the other additional information at this point regarding this email, since several of us have not seen the email, when we receive it

Commissioner Hinson: You know what I said and you know what the County Administrator said.

Chair NeSmith: Yes sir. Commissioner Simpkins and Commissioner Holt?

Commissioner Simpkins: I just want to make this statement, because we are bound by Sunshine Law, we can't meet privately, so, when I received something and it has my fellow Commissioners' name on it, then I find that I have to bring it here. I want to know, as a matter of fact, I called the Attorney General to see if this was a discussion I could have behind closed doors so I don't want it to come across as Oh, you're bringing, you know, this is something that we could've just discussed, I just want you all to know that. Secondly, to finish my, I had additional, I was not finished with my discussion. The second part of it is I received, and I'm not sure if you all received it as well, but it was hand delivered to me, a packet on Saturday. Did you will receive that?

Chair NeSmith: I did Commissioner.

Commissioner Simpkins: OK, so, with this packet, there was a request for directions and guidance from the Board of County Commissioners from the Public Works Director and I know that we don't deal with day to day operations. However, when it comes to the services that are being provided to our citizens and how it affects the services our citizens receive, then it does become an issue for us. There were just some things in here that really bothered me. (Inaudible) I'm for treating everybody fairly and with respect. To call and request someone to resign on their day off, I wouldn't do that. That bothered me. It bothers me when staff, and this is not the first time that I have been told this, but when staff says that they are not to fraternize with me, well some of the staff in Gadsden County are my constituents, well, all of them if they live in Gadsden County, they are my constituents and I think that they should not be afraid to speak with me freely about anything. At the end of the day our tax dollars pay their salaries, right? If they live in Gadsden County, part of their tax dollars pays their salaries. So, that was something that bothered me. When we look at pay, I think people should be paid fairly and it

shouldn't be based upon who it is. I requested a copy of the budget and we don't have any control over salaries. We don't set salaries. However, when I look at some of them and then I look at a Director making a dollar less than their entry level employee and we had an opportunity to pay that person more, that bothers me. You all have read this, everyone has read this. I do feel that this needs to be addressed. When we have employees feeling like they are in a hostile work environment, then that is a problem and it affects services that are being provided to our citizens on a daily basis. You say that we are "One Gadsden" then we need to treat everybody, the citizens, the staff and all needs to be treated fairly. We need to do things professionally with no retaliation. We don't need the retaliation. We don't need to put the county in a position where we are having to go to litigation because it was not done the way someone wanted it to be done, especially if it was done in the correct manner. Mr. Attorney, I am going to, I need direction, I would like for you to give us direction. How do we handle things, what's the...I've requested the climate survey just a kind of see, that has an effect? In the school system we do a climate survey to see the people feel, the teachers feel, how the kids feel, how the staff feel. It makes a difference on the service that is being provided. So, I requested, I did request a climate survey and I hope that we will have that soon so that we can see how the staff feels, how the County Administrator feels, how his direct staff feels and we can get an idea fails get an idea on the feeling of our staff as a whole. I was not here when you all did the evaluation, not sure what's included on the evaluation. But if you're not in on the day to day operations then not sure what is included on that. So, Mr. Attorney, please tell me what we can do

Mr. Knowles: So, just a little bit quick background, I am sort of aware of what you have presented Commissioner. In our previous instance when we had another issue in Public Works, the Board, I believe, elected, or maybe the Administrator at that point, the Board, in this instance might want to follow the lead like we did with Ms. Robinson. They hired an outside firm, I believe the Krizner Group, to conduct an investigation into the allegations that were made. That is a mutual third party. Again, you all would need to approve that and then they can address all these issues that you have brought up here today, I don't think it is appropriate, necessarily, for me to do that, that would just be sort of a conflict of interest on my end, but if it is something that the board is inclined to do, the best way to sort of hash it out is to have a third party come in and do that and look of the allegations. I don't have a copy of what you're looking at, I don't have a full copy, I have glanced at it, but I do not have a full copy of it. That would be my best suggestion to you all. I do recall in that instance Dr. Grant called in FAC, our insurance carrier did pay for that, but there may be costs associated with that paid for that but costs for the board. If that is something that you're inclined to investigate as a commission, that would be my best advice.

Chair NeSmith: Commissioner Simpkins, any further comment?

Commissioner Simpkins: I want to ask the, with the, I say something and that is something you can actually answer. With the property, the vehicle usage, how do you normally handle that? How was it handle?

Mr. Dixon: I don't know what you are looking at.

Commissioner Simpkins: OK, I'm sorry. Well let me just ask you...

Mr. Dixon: Additionally, I think the attorney will agree with me that I cannot discuss any employee issues in the public. I don't know what you're looking at, I don't know why you are looking at it, whoever sent it did not send it to me. I don't know what the allegations nor the issues are. I know what the issues are that I am dealing with every day as the Administrator. I don't know what issues someone has hand delivered to you all regarding what I do day to day. I'm sure the law says that you all should not be involved in that area; however, you are the Board. I'm sure the attorney can instruct you on how you should operate. But, if there are five people running the County, six, then we will have the chaos and confusion that we are having now. Because some employee, and it is not about employees whether they can speak to you, talk to you, telling you about issues, it is whether or not they receive direction from you or influence direction from you as to what they come back to the office and do. Are they doing it under the color of your name because you as a Commissioner has agreed with them, at home and therefore they don't have to respect the Administrator. Those are the problems we are bumping into, is people are greenlighting programs, projects and not receiving the proper authority to do so and then they are suggesting that a Commissioner has done something, said something. That is not how the way government should work. We are heading down the way of City of Quincy where the, the Commissioners are choosing employees, which employees to support, which employees not to support. I am the Administrator. I have to make decisions with a lot of information none of you have. And I won't even, under duress, provide that information to you. I should not provide that information to you because that is somebody's personal personnel situation. It should not be out here in the public eye and you shouldn't, because you will ruin people's reputation as a result of such. There are allegations made by somebody who might have ulterior motives. I don't know, but I'm sitting here simply saying I can't respond to any of that and I wish, I pray that you not put that kind of stuff in the public because it is somebody's position who you don't know what their personal motivation is.

Chair NeSmith: Commissioner Simpkins?

Commissioner Simpkins: as I stated earlier, when information is provided, Sunshine, and you're well aware of the Sunshine State law and it does not allow the Commissioners, as a matter fact, as I stated, I called the Attorney General's Office to find out if we could speak on this matter, letting them know what we received and if we could speak on this privately. Sunshine law applies. When I received, we don't handle day to day, that is the Administrator's responsibility. However, when there is an environment set where felt to be a hostile environment or what's going on affects the services that are being provided to the citizens, then that does, I now come into play as a Commissioner because I was placed here to serve the people, making sure their health, their safety, including the public, the roles and all of that is taken care of for our people. Nothing personal but what I'm saying I can't, you are right, I can't, you handle day to day. However, every staff member is an adult and we treat you professionally and when receiving information where staff, and it's not just one staff member, I don't, there are three sides to every story, your side, his side and then the truth. So, I understand that. But when you receive multiples that there is a lack of professionalism, I think it has to be addressed. The only thing I'm saying here is, I brought this out because it was sent to all of us. Opportunity to ask, not calling anyone's name, just gave general information. I have not called anyone's name. I'm just asking general information. Again, I ask what is the procedure for our cars and the use of county vehicles. What is the policy as it relates to county vehicles.

Mr. Dixon: I will get that information to you. That's all I can say. I don't know what issue...

Commissioner Simpkins: No, I'm just, the policy as it relates to traveling with the county vehicle. Traveling, is it just for purposes, business purposes or personal, or we have business outside of our county, outside of our state.

Chair Nesmith: Do we have county vehicle's Mr. Administrator? Who drives those?

Mr. Dixon: Yes, County Staff. Yes, we have business outside of the state, ah, Decatur County, we have business that's in Leon County, have business...

Chair NeSmith: So, those are for staff to attend those County business events?

Mr. Dixon: Yes, or they may be gone to lunch. I mean...

Chair NeSmith: OK, for county employees to attend county business.

Commissioner Simpkins: OK. County business, right. OK.

Chair NeSmith: Thank you Commissioner Simpkins. Now what we are going to do Commissioner Simpkins, as I get ready to go to Commissioner Holt and then Commissioner Green, again, as you stated, we have a plethora of information and well, I'm going to hold my comments because I'm gonna make sure Commissioner Holt and Commissioner Green...because there is a way we can address these various issues, from a policy perspective and we will come to that. I mean, there is a process that we've even discussed having a workshop because we...And I had this meeting with the County Administrator that you came in and that's why you heard us say that, you know, there was (inaudible) circumstances two years ago. The process, we didn't have an opportunity for there to be an open process when we were looking at the County Administrator and there was probably a lot of things that we didn't do that we can go back and correct. One of those things is we can get those policies in relationship to all the executive staff and staff as a whole. Because we have not looked at our policies. We just have not had time because we were addressing so many other issues, so, these very issues that you are discussing, obviously there is a, it's time for us to have that workshop so that we can look at our organizational chart and then look at policies coming down. As you stated, where's the culture, what's the culture of our staff, what surveys do we need to put in place. As a matter of fact, Mr. Administrator, even though the newest Commissioner, Commissioner Simpkins was not here last year to do the evaluation, could you still send her the evaluation so she will know what the instrument looks like? So that you will at least know how we evaluated the last two years. Because we need to make the adjustments.

Commissioner Simpkins: So, oh, I'm sorry, quick question. So, you created the evaluation?

Chair NeSmith: No ma'am. The evaluation tool was here when I arrived. We just utilized the tool that was already here, we utilized that tool.

Commissioner Simpkins: So, can we make sure that we put our policy and procedures as one of the workshops that we put on top of our agenda...

Chair NeSmith: Commissioner, we can have any workshop you want to have.

Commissioner Holt: Thank you. Commissioners, I think I have been at this too long. Last time I heard this much conversation about employees and their concerns, that's when we really got sued because they did it in an open meeting. What we need to do is back up any information that we have, I think under the sunshine law we are supposed to, I think at least reserve the information, right, Mr. Attorney?

Mr. Knowles: Yes ma'am, with regard to that you will need to, potentially, if there is a potential for any litigation, maintain all documents that you have or received into perpetuity until, I want to say until I say otherwise but until that is done and we have moved on.

Commissioner Holt: Probably until a judge says that, but, what I wanted to say is that under FAC, normally they will tell you if you get some any information get it to the administrator or turn it over to the county so that way they would have a record because commissioners have a tendency to misplace (inaudible) but, if you turn it over to the County, you have a tendency to have at least one document, OK? In this case, if there is any type of discrepancy with that, it makes sense to turn it over to someone, if the administrator doesn't want to look at it, someone that he may designate to look at. That makes sense, because you want to preserve the record. That's what I usually tell employees. If you talk with me about something, I have to turn it over, that's what I have to do. I tell them that, ahead of time, before it you give me anything. If you want to talk to me, talk to me, but I have to tell the administrator. That is what we have done before. The times that we went and got sued about is when we start discussing one side of an issue, which is what we are doing now. We cannot, in a public meeting, discuss one side of an issue because we are public officials. When we bring it up, you've brought it up, now we have to make a decision if are we going to workshop it. We shouldn't go through the particulars of the incident. We can workshop it, but that way it gives all sides a (inaudible). One person can't say that we discussed something that one person wrote that the other one did. You have both sides of that situation. Then we have a tendency to show proof that we are doing the, going to the day to day. I felt the same way when I came back in 2000. But I want to talk about this and the first thing those lawyers said was 'You don't want to talk about that'. Then the time that we did get sued, they pulled a video tape from the Board Meeting and that was what they used in, the person that sued us, that's what they used to win a lawsuit. When the Chairman and the Vice Chairman said we didn't do this and the same attorney that we're dealing with right now, she went and got it and put it the DVD and said there it is. So, what I'm saying is, if we're going to workshop this, then we workshop it and stop discussing it in an open meeting. The other thing is, that all the information that we may need to bring to the workshop then we say these are the things that we want to have. We want a survey done, we say let's do a survey. But, as you said, there are three sides to every story. If I say, this is a good example, if I say I want this road paved in my district and other Commissioners want something done in their district. If I tell the employee, and this really happened to me, really happened to me. I'm in South Florida long time ago, I'm in South Florida at a workshop and a road was done in my district and I knew nothing about it. That particular Commissioner and that whole little group there wanted it done in their neighborhood, their own neighborhood. I didn't know anything about it. When people started calling me, I was like, what? You paved that road, why you didn't pave my road. I didn't know road was paved because I was in a workshop the week that they did it. So, what I'm saying though is, no matter what our concerns are, let's back up. Let's say we want this thing workshopped. Because you are going to find there are a whole bunch of employees saying "a", there is a whole bunch of employees saying "b" and that's what they are going to do. I have not worked one year out of 21 years where I didn't have any complaints from anyone. The whole

time you are going to get complaints. So, let's do that, let's stop talking about this and let's move on. That way at least we look professional even if the attorneys are probably going to come after us anyway. But, let's go ahead and end this.

Chair NeSmith: Thank you Commissioner Holt. Commissioner Green?

Commissioner Green: Thank you. I was just going to add to the piece of the conversation as it relates to FAC, the Association that we are a part of. Wanting to know, I guess that's something we should consider looking into, how do we handle situations when there is something involving administration. Secondly, I will get the disclaimer that when I received the package, I too was puzzled by the information and was disheartened by some of the things. But, however I wanted an opportunity because as has been stated, there are multiple sides to every story. I did want the opportunity to speak with the Administrator, but I came on Thursday, he was not here and we have not had the opportunity so I have not placed any judgment on what I received due to the fact that I do want to hear his response to the information that was given to us to be fair. I'm going to always do my best to be fair in every situation dealing with everybody because at the end of the day, all of us are individuals who may have, may make bad decisions or have things that we need to work on as individuals. But, my role, me, I guess what I'm trying to say, all of us are not perfect, never going to have a perfect situation. But, however, we do want to put a handle on the things, that if they are true that are transpiring so that that way we can make sure that we don't have these unnecessary litigations and lawsuits that are seeming to become very popular these days. So, workshop was one of the things I was going to suggest as well, but in workshopping, what can you discuss in a workshop? So, is it even purposeful to have a workshop if you really can't deal with the issues without talking about day to day operations and that's why I'm thinking we may need to really consult FAC on the proper procedures of how to handle issues such as these or even allegations. Because, again, we don't know what's true or what's not true. We have information that has been printed and given to us but, how do we do research? I went to the attorney when I got it because I wanted him to see it. I wanted some guidance on x, y and z, so, as our County Attorney, that's why he had the opportunity to see the information. But I do want our employees to feel as if we are concerned about them, because we are, we just have to be careful in how we go about the process so that we do not get ourselves into trouble.

Chair NeSmith: OK, thank you Commissioner Green. Yes, Commissioner Hinson?

Commissioner Hinson: I just got through looking at it right now, finished looking at the paperwork right here. Commissioner Simpkins, what she was trying to do was trying not to expose the conversation. She assumed everybody had a chance to look at it. She watered down her comments so it wouldn't expose anyone else or (inaudible). I think that we need to follow the attorney's advice. How much do you think it will cost to do research? This thing is more serious than we think. It's not a walk in the park; not something that is he said, she said, this documentation that we've seen right here. So, how much it costs, a ballpark?

Mr. Knowles: Again, I wouldn't be doing it, just to be clear. That would be an outside firm.

Commissioner Hinson: (made a comment and was inaudible)

Mr. Knowles: \$5,000-\$10,000 and FAC may pay for it.

Commissioner Hinson: It may be covered by our insurance coverage. Like Commissioner Green said, let's go ahead and do the research. Have them do the research and come back and tell us. That way then we'll know up front whether or not they have all the facts in front of us. Now people will do research to everybody and also do research in all the departments. So, that's what they can do for us. We're talking about fiduciary responsibility, right? So, that's what this is all about, fiduciary responsibility. It's more than what she said, she has watered down the conversation.

Chair NeSmith: I understand.

Commissioner Hinson: If anybody sees this, it's like early time worship day. So, let's focus on the fiduciary responsibility. Give direction to the County Attorney to lead the charge in finding someone outside, an independent person who can do research. Because if it's not a problem, we don't have to worry about it, (inaudible). So...

Mr. Knowles: It'll be covered by Sunshine.

Commissioner Hinson: It'll be covered by Sunshine.

Commissioner Hinson: So, we don't have to report anything, the Board will have the information in front of us and we can move forward. That's the only fair thing to do.

Chair NeSmith: Well, let's do this Commissioner Hinson. One, again, did we have an email...Commissioner Holt, did you want to say something? I'm trying to move us forward.

Commissioner Holt: I wanted to say something right quick. I'm about through. When we make comments and say 'Oh Lord, this is awful than anything else' and we have only seen one side of the story. That's what gets to be bad, that's when we're playing to the cameras. You don't say that, what you do is you say is let's do the research. But the company did the research. If we decide up to \$20,000 is what we're willing to pay, that way we put a number figure on it and we can go ahead get started tomorrow. But, if you make accusations, that's where the problems come in at.

Chair Nesmith: OK.

Commissioner Holt: You cannot do that in a public meeting.

Chair NeSmith. Right. Thank you, Commissioner Holt. Let's do this. 1) There is an email pertaining that some Commissioners had and others don't. There is an e-mail that certain commissioners have and had an opportunity to read that the commissioners have not had an opportunity to read. OK? Let's give the commissioners an opportunity to read the emails who have not had an opportunity to read the emails. Then let's give every commissioner an opportunity to read through whatever documentation that was presented. Make sure Mr. Attorney, we forward it to the appropriate persons that we're legally responsible to forward to. Commissioners, we can come back once we've had an opportunity to read the emails and any other information that we have received, that we can come back in a subsequent meeting and then say OK, these are some areas that we would like to review so we will have specifics on

areas that we need to review so that if we decide that we're going to utilize the services of FAC, which would not be necessarily a cost to the organization unless...Mr. Attorney, is FAC provided any assistance, is that a cost to the board, to the people?

Mr. Knowles: I don't know. I don't believe it would be a cost to us. Again, I just agree with Commissioner Holt. We don't often agree but we agree tonight. But I agree with Commissioner Holt that, and that's not saying anyone here has done that, but we don't necessarily need to investigate it h.

Chair NeSmith: Right.

Mr. Knowles: I think we're all in agreement there. So, I wouldn't, I would be cognizant of what we discuss here in this meeting and certainly any documents that you have, if you could send me copies, the Administrator copies. We will retain those documents, look over those documents and again, you perceive however you would like from there.

Chair NeSmith: we want to make sure, Commissioners, that we perceive according to our legal Counsel, but the first step is for all Commissioners to read whatever documentation or emails that they have not had an opportunity to read. Let's start there. Alright? OK.

Moving on, Commissioner Holt. I'm sorry, Commissioner Simpkins, are you..., OK, I just wanted to make sure you had an opportunity...that was your time.

Commissioner Simpkins: Let me finish on a positive note, OK? I hope that we can put aside all of our differences in philosophy and approach to work and serve our community on common ground. I love you all.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt said there was a light out on the mural. There is a pastor that has a beautiful poem for the County and would like for him to be able to bring it forward and bring it to the Board so they can put it as part of the County web page and site.

She asked the Attorney and the Administrator, if possible, she wanted a section on each one of the items and the Attorney's Opinion when they come to the Board so they do not have to ask his opinion on items on the agenda.

For economic Development when talking about the American Rescue Plan, on sewer and water, they need to definitely look at sewer and water on Highway 267. Companies will come if pipes are in the ground. They have to look at what they are missing. That is the purpose of the trip to Lake City. She said she has heard a lot of positive things about the Bicentennial. She asked what they could put on the ground that will make people come to Gadsden county.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5

Commissioner Green went back to an email he forwarded to Mr. Dixon to have clarification for the \$64 Million that was available through the USDA Rural for Distant Learning and Telemedicine grant program and is due on January 30th to apply for. He hoped the County was applying for it. Mr. Dixon said it is one of those partnership grants that the County will need to

partner with someone to do it. Commissioner Green asked if he forwarded it over and Mr. Dixon said yes.

He asked for an update on the Non-profit for senior services. Mr. Dixon said they want to start off but need to get information to the attorney for him to sign off on it. They are starting to initiate a new plan to get it into working order. It will come back to the Board with a Budget request and they are looking at funding sources, including the Indigent Care program that the Clerk spoke about. Most of those seniors are indigent and in desperate need of healthcare and working those dollars into that plan is important. There is a workshop on the calendar and will be getting more information to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Green asked if they knew how many applicants have been received for the Economic Development position? Chair Nesmith said may have received about 3-4 applications. He did meet with the Director of Human Resources last week. Through their conversation, it was determined that, as Commissioner Hinson stated or eluded to some time ago, that 10-year requirement may be challenging, and the recommendation was that they may need to reduce down to 3-5 years.

Becky Maas, Human Resources Director, appeared before the Board and said she talked to some Development directors earlier and ones at the highest level are the ones you find in excess of 8 years of experience. She felt it would broaden the applicant pool if they lowered the years of experience. They are on Indeed, the most utilized recruitment tool. She recommended 3-5 years of experience and they could also say recommended instead of required. Commissioner Green asked for a close out date. Ms. Maas said it was open until filled. He asked how long it would be open until they start the process for some that have applied. She said the applicant pool becomes stale very quickly and she felt that was what he was referring to. She felt it would be good to add a message to existing candidates to let them know they were still recruiting for that position.

Commissioner Hinson asked if they have advertised with FAC. She said no but was something she could look into. Commissioner Hinson said they should advertise with FAC for a month or so. He said he just wanted someone who wants to make a difference.

Commissioner Simpkins said with the 4 applicants, have they looked at them or will they wait until they get a certain amount. Ms. Maas said they usually wait until there is a sufficient applicant pool and the sufficient number would be 6-8.

Commissioner Holt said she was not worried about the number, but the success stories instead. She asked what their portfolio looked like. Ms. Maas said that was one of the first opportunities that came up to increase the visibility and there were other things they could research and ideas to bring forth to the county administrator.

Commissioner Hinson said also someone with Planning and Zoning experience. Commissioner Green asked if that needed to be in the form of a motion.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE MOTION TO AMEND THE CRITERIA FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPERS'S POSITION TO 3-5 YEARS AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Green asked about stripping. Mr. Dixon said within the next two weeks. Commissioner Green wished the PIO a happy birthday. He thanked the National Black Women Hoop-up Chapter of Gadsden County for a successful MLK celebration this past Monday and congratulated the speaker, Isaiah Tolucas. He asked Commissioner Simpkins to run back what she said for the greenlight moment. He congratulated Dr. Alma Littles from Gadsden County and she is the Interim Director of Medicine for FSU College of Medicine. Commissioner Holt suggested she be given a proclamation.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO GIVE DR. ALMA LITTLES A PROCLAMATION AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VIOCE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Eric Hinson, Vice-Chair, District 1

Commissioner Hinson echoed everything Commissioner Green said regarding the stripping and said there was also an issue with lighting. He mentioned the trash all over the County and said there were also issues with trash in Havana on Barber Road.

He said they needed to have a workshop on a list of priorities. The City of Tallahassee gave the Veterans 5000 dollars.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 8:28 pm

He said Children are our future and said they need to think about a community center and capture them at a young age. He asked if the \$200, 000 for the bicentennial was more important than \$7,000-\$8,000 for a community center.

Commissioner Holt returned at 8:37 pm.

Commissioner Green stepped out at 8:37 pm

Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, Chair, District 3

Chair NeSmith asked the Administrator if they had hired anyone for the Nuisance Abatement position? Mr. Dixon responded they were currently looking at Magistrates. Chair NeSmith asked about the Bipartisan Infrastructure bill, he said lighting was a problem throughout the entire county. Could they pay for lighting through that bill? Mr. Dixon said he would think so. Commissioner Holt agreed. Commissioner Holt said the lighting was brought up from the urban areas.

Commissioner Green returned at 8:43 pm.

Commissioner Hinson said maybe each Commissioner could get 10 lights. He said they need an Economic Developer like the Administrator. Chair Nesmith thanked everyone for their understanding. He said the end goal is for Gadsden County to be great.

Commissioner Simpkins said there will be a neighborhood clean-up in St Hebrew Saturday beginning at 9:30 am.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
January 17, 2023 – Regular Meeting

Chair Nesmith congratulated Mr. Ira Daniels for 20 years of organizing the MLK celebration in Gadsden County.

Commissioner Simpkins repeated for the “Greenlight Moment”:
I hope that we can put aside our differences of philosophy and approach to work and serve our community on common ground as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Stokely Carmichael. Thank you.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:50 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

KIMBLIN NESMITH, 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 JANUARY 31, 2023 AT 4:00 PM,
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

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

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair NeSmith welcomed everyone and called the workshop to order at 4:04 pm. Commissioner Green gave the Invocation and proceeded with the Pledge of Allegiance of the U. S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Dixon said there were no changes to the agenda.

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

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 31, 2023. 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 Simpkins read the above statement aloud.

Ms. Gloria Thomas, 8602 Salem Road, Quincy, FL - appeared before the Board.

Ms. Thomas spoke about the SHIP program. She said she had a very good experience with the program. The staff was very nice and they attended to her problems.

Ms. Rebecca Gray appeared before the Board and spoke favorably on behalf of the SHIP programs. She said the staff dealt with her with no arguments. She thanked them for their services.

Commissioner Holt appeared at 4:14 p.m.

Commissioner NeSmith received a letter from Ms. Patricia Johnson and Archie May Carter and read the letter aloud. The letter was to acknowledge Sonya Burns and Erica Davis for their professional and excellent customer service.

Commissioner Green also thanked them for the great customer service.

Commissioner Simpkins thanked them all as well. Commissioner Hinson thanked the staff for helping the seniors.

1. Welcome

Mr. Dixon welcomed everyone to the workshop.

2. Presentation regarding Growth Management

Justin Stiell, Growth Management Director, appeared before the Board and gave an overview of the Planning Department. He explained the purpose of this workshop was to familiarize everyone with the Planning Department.

He explained with the Comprehensive Plan, it is to

“Provides the principles, guidelines, standards and strategies for the orderly and balanced future economic, social, physical, environmental, and fiscal development of the area that reflects community commitments to implement the plan and its elements”

He explained the Comprehensive Plan was required by Statute 163.3174 F.S. for all 67 counties and 412 municipalities and must be evaluated and updated on a periodic basis, at least once every seven years. Gadsden County’s Comprehensive Plan has not been updated since 2019. He went through and explained the Land Development Code (LDC) and further explained big picture considerations.

The Planning Division is responsible for:

- Ensuring all development applications are reviewed with respect to the Comprehensive Plan and LDC
- Preparation of the Comprehensive Plan and LDC
- Make recommendations to the governing body regarding the adoption or amendment of the plan, LDC, and proposed developments
- Hold public hearings, with public notice, on the proposed plan and LDC, and proposed amendments
- Monitor and oversee the effectiveness and status of the Comprehensive Plan
- Appointment of Planning Commission Members and facilitation of PC meetings to elicit recommendations for Board consideration

He explained the make-up of the Planning Commissioner and stated they host public hearings for legislative matters (code and plan updates) as well as quasi-judicial matters (proposed land developments). He explained there were three different development types:

- Administrative, that was a review at the Staff level;
- Legislative Actions; and
- Quasi-Judicial Actions and both are reviewed by the Planning Commission and the Board of County Commissioners.

He explained the different levels.

He explained the major issues:

- lack of infrastructure, municipal water, sewer
- Increasing density

- Lack of local and collector roads for more accessibility to parcels
- Policies to support and encourage developers to create communities instead of just subdividing into large parcels

Commissioner Holt stated with regards to roadways within a development, that needed to be signed off by citizens that purchases the property and explained examples of what she was talking about.

Commissioner Green asked how about the timeframe and how soon could changes be made to be shovel-ready so opportunities would not be missed in the future.

Mr. Dixon said the first point is to imagine where it could happen. He said a lot of property owners want to sell their property as commercial when it comes time to sell but want the property classified as agricultural for the tax breaks otherwise.

Chair NeSmith said to Mr. Dixon, as Commissioner Hinson has championed this for a while regarding infrastructure with the 4 interchanges at I-10, was infrastructure there for development to come in? Mr. Dixon said no, not yet.

Commissioners Simpkins said may be useful to sit with the Planning Council.

Commissioner Hinson felt they needed to break it down into parts, such as residential, rural residential, commercial, etc. and have meetings for each category.

Mr. Wilcox appeared before the Board and was present to express his gratitude for his new home through the SHIP program. He was thanked for his service in the community after the hurricane.

Commissioner Holt said Gadsden County was not over the Trulieve site and object, that was the Department of Agriculture and was approved by the Legislature.

Commissioner Simpkins stepped out at 5:33 pm.

Commissioner Holt said Amazon chose the site they are at.

Commissioner Simpkins returned at 5:34 pm

Commissioner Holt said they also need to look at enticement. Also, the county may have to apply for a CDBG to put in sewer.

Commissioner Holt stepped out.

Commissioner Simpkins said they need a plan and this was first step. They need other players at the table.

3. Presentation regarding SHIP Housing

Mr. Dixon introduced the SHIP Housing Coordinator, Sonya Burns and she appeared before the Board.

Commissioner Holt returned at 5:44 pm

Commissioner Hinson said the workshop was scheduled for 2 hours and suggested to come back another day for the SHIP portion.

Mr. Knowles said there was nothing saying they have to end by a scheduled time and the Board chose to continue the workshop.

Sonya Burns, SHIP Housing Coordinator, introduced her staff and gave an overview of the program.

She listed the Gadsden County Area Median Income Limit.

Commissioner Hinson asked to have a meeting with the Capital Area Community Action Agency.

Ms. Burns continued her presentation.

She said Gadsden County received money through the HHRP program for hurricane relief. She added that \$80,000 was the maximum award without BOCC and 74 total units were completed. She said there are next steps:

- Creation of Gadsden County Homeless Committee;
- CDBG-HR Grant 2022-23; and
- Continue collecting data for land bank.

Commissioner Holt said she has spoken with a few people in Tallahassee and Gadsden County does not have any zoning for tiny houses.

Commissioner Green said they have had brief conversations regarding homeless situations and was interested in getting information.

Commissioner Holt said if three people could not run this, they needed more people in this department and they would be able to accomplish more.

Commissioner Hinson said they could find grants that will purchase land and also write staff into the grants.

Commissioner Green stepped out at 6:18 pm

Ms. Burns said she planned to have more heir property workshops.

Chair NeSmith said there were a lot of moving parts and asked where we were at in big picture regarding the housing authority.

Commissioner Holt asked if they could have in layman's terms what each program will do.

Commissioner Simpkins had questions for Ms. Burns with regard to the USDA 504 repair and asked if there was an income limit. Ms. Burns said there was.

Commissioner Holt stepped out 6:43 pm and returned at 6:45 pm

Commissioner Simpkins asked if the County contributed in funding for these programs and Mr. Dixon said they were going to ask for it.

Commissioner Green asked if they could utilize CARES or ARP for housing if it was legal or possible and Mr. Dixon replied yes.

Commissioner Holt said sometimes if they advertise income at a certain level, they do not get anything.

Commissioner Holt asked when they would be getting a budget person?

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH DECLARED THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED AT 7:00 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**KIMBLIN NESMITH, 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 FEBRUARY 1, 2023 AT 4:00 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, Chair, District 4
Ronterious "Ron" Green, District 5
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair NeSmith called the workshop to order, welcomed everyone and asked for moment of silence 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 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.

Mr. Dixon read aloud the above statement.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Welcome

Chair Nesmith welcomed everyone to the workshop.

2. Gadsden County Senior Citizens Centers Presentation

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said the information in the packet should not be new to anyone. They have been moving in this direction, per Board's instruction, since they heard what had happened with GSS. The Board confirmed their desire to put senior services on a more concrete footing and to that the board would move to take over the Senior Centers across the County. They would be managed daily by the Director of Elder Affairs, LaToya Fryson. Currently, the Quincy and Chattahoochee centers are fully operational and serve as access points and are activating a new site in the Carver Heights Community of Havana. Some of the things he mentioned they were hoping to provide were homestyle cooked meals three times a week at each site; a food pantry; transportation to seniors via the Transportation Disadvantage program; supplemental Utility Assistance, etc. They know that funding was taken from GSS and they know that the funding will run out for GSS. The goal and direction from the board has been to figure out when that was to present a proposal so that they can keep senior citizen centers running. The analysis recognizes how many seniors they have in the county and they want to increase that number by 1,000. The original proposal would provide increased, ongoing support

and resources and long-term benefits in the amount of \$475,000; with \$300,000 being for operations and \$175,000 a donation to non-profit to maintain the level of service. He added that 99% of the employees would be on the non-profit side of the house. He also stated they were already donating \$100,000 to the non-profit side of the house. They plan to increase programs for all seniors for their daily care. They plan to have trips, which some would be out of town.

Commissioner Green arrived at 4:19 p.m.

Mr. Dixon said they will have to update personnel at all sites. The non-profit corporation was set up. They are becoming cohesive in what they want to do. The recruitment of volunteers is going to be super important.

Commissioner Hinson stepped out at 4:23 p.m.

Commissioner Green said he noticed the provided information was pretty much what they had received before, with the addition of having the non-profit incorporation in the pamphlet.

Commissioner Hinson returned at 4:27 p.m.

Sherrie Taylor appeared before the Board. She said she did not know if they were going to allow comments. She said one thing caught her ear was that Mr. Dixon said, which was the initiative to reach out to all that are serving seniors and she said she did not receive a phone call to meet even though they were offering exactly what the Board was proposing. They submitted a request for a proposal on September 9th at 2:46 to the Administrative Assistant, Laurel Bradley. She said they had not heard anything about the proposal. She did invite all of them down and 4 of the 5 commissioners did come to the facility so they know what they are doing. She understood what the initiative was. They are going to provide services in different areas. She said she also has a program that is in East Quincy that has an average attendance of 40-45 people daily and provide hot lunch and bed, as well as a continental breakfast.

Commissioner Holt arrived at 4:32 p.m.

She said they mentioned activities and they have been there since June 1st. They take them out twice a month and do what the seniors want to do. She has a retired arts and crafts teacher and also teach them about life coping skills. She asked them to please consider their program. They are doing everything they just mentioned, the only thing they are not providing right now is utilities assistance. She said to take Sherrie Taylor out of the equation to consider the program. She asked them not to hold their personal issues or concerns with her because she knows she has done some things to anger people, but she did not want them to hold that against the program and not fund them. She said it was well worth it.

Commissioner Holt stepped out 4:36 pm

Commissioner Holt returned 4:37 pm

Chair Nesmith said he has not had the opportunity to look at the proposal. He said he went to the facility and liked he activities he witnessed. When they originally looked at all applications

from non-profits, they are still in the process of developing their non-profit protocol and the process. He said they have not looked at any non-profit organization because they have not completed that process.

Reginald Cunningham appeared before the Board. He said the issue was when he was Chair for the Gadsden Senior Services, some type of oversight was needed so that they can provide services throughout the entire county. He stated only 4% of the elderly population was being serviced and that was unacceptable.

Commissioner Hinson asked Mr. Dixon if there was a reason why Sherrie Taylor's group has not been spoken with and Mr. Dixon said he had not spoken with anyone. Commissioner Hinson said he believes in collaboration and was wondering since they are already funding the seniors, why they haven't been reached out to. Mr. Dixon said his directive was to build a program that the County could support.

Commissioner Green thanked Commissioner Taylor for all that she is doing. He was able to go to the facility as well and looks forward to going back to offer some of his services. He hopes they are able to do something to contribute to that foundation because it is needed. He also asked the Board to find a way to do something. He said he did not think it was personal, they just need to come up with a non-profit program. As leaders in the County, it is their duty to make sure they are providing for every citizen in the County. There will be stipulations put in place that will determine how they give or how much they give.

Commissioner Taylor re-appeared before the Board. She thanked Commissioner Green for those words. She said 18% of the population is senior citizens. She asked the Board to consider the accountability and deliverables. She told them to let the non-profits help them with their plan.

Commissioner Simpkins said they are contradicting themselves because they had the Senior Foundation to establish a non-profit fund and Gadsden Senior Services is a non-profit. What needs to happen, because services are being provided, they need to be at the table with Chattahoochee providers, Havana providers and Gadsden Wellness to lay out a plan. She wants to know where the money is being spent. She asked, if they could, meet and figure out the expectations.

Commissioner Holt said this all came about because of funding being removed from the Senior Citizens Center that was already there. She asked Area on Agency to do a background check on any group that was involved with the seniors and that has not been done. The reason they have been having problems are because the County did not step in and do a program for seniors. She said the seniors are always going to go to them because they think that they control what happens to them. She said this was not about liking or not liking, it was about performance. She said when funds were moved, some people lost their jobs. They need to get a program in place that will serve everyone in the county. Anyone who receives money from the Board should receive a letter saying they could be audited. There are ways to do things and they need to get a program set up.

Mr. Dixon said this was not about any other Senior-driven agency, just as it was not about Gretna, Midway. It was about the County creating a base program that has the ability to grow

and setting a level of service across the County. He stated the only competition he saw all was who would apply for funding from Area on Aging.

Commissioner Hinson said he understood there were two organizations that were receiving funding. One did outreach throughout the community going into homes and the more homes visited, more funding they would receive.

Commissioner Green stepped out and returned at 5:10 pm

Commissioner Hinson said they need to focus on infrastructure, etc. and on how they could get money.

Mr. Cunningham re-appeared before the Board.

Commissioner Holt asked what services were provided to the homebound and Mr. Cunningham responded they were currently providing companionship and homemaking; Elder Cares was handling the personal care. Gadsden Wellness handles the OAA piece that includes the Meals on Wheels. Commissioner Holt asked if the Senior Center was handling that before and Mr. Cunningham said yes. She asked how much was moved from that program to the Wellness Center? Mr. Cunningham said the remaining of the grant.

Commissioner Holt said she was not opposed to having multiple programs, she wanted to make sure they were ran efficiently. She added that right now this program needed to be set up by the County. Every time the Seniors had a problem, they came to the County. She said they had to be set up first, anything that comes before the Board for funding, if they had the votes, they got the votes.

Ms. Taylor re-appeared before the Board and said one thing that Commissioner Holt stated with regards to backgrounds, as a Director, she had to have both an in-depth background screening from the Department of Children and Family as well as ACHA. If any flag comes up on her, being the Registered Agent for the program, she is immediately pushed through the system. She added that Area Agency does not fund government and was why they were putting together a foundation, but how much oversight is over where they were supposed to be as the county government. The structure that Area Agency has is to identify funding agencies. They do not fund government, only non-profits. She added that government cannot apply for the funds and wondered if the county was overextending themselves with this.

Commissioner Green said he wanted to be clear this was not a competition between the two organizations because they were trying to meet the needs of everybody in the County.

Chair NeSmith said he had an opportunity to attend the Wellness Center and it was not a competition and he was very clear about that. It was about putting something in place to utilize everyone. This was a chance for them to be actively involved and have input with a process that they were putting in place as a County.

Commissioner Simpkins said as it relates to the seniors, her cousin led the pack to fight for GSS before she passed. They need to work together and she was fighting for unity. She was not against the County overseeing the services and felt that was what needed to happen because it

was a large county. She added there was a need for a larger area. The question is still how will other citizens be serviced? They need to put parameters in place and make sure the services were being provided.

Commissioner Hinson said he had concerns, he thought funding was set aside for GSS.

Mr. Dixon said all of that was part of the non-profit but the Commission had said no distribution until they had the non-profit meeting.

Commissioner Hinson said that was the first thing they should have done. He asked if they had an Elderly Care Director and Mr. Dixon said yes.

Rhonda Woodward, In-house CPA for the Clerk, appeared before the Board and asked for clarification. She asked if the Commission was proposing to establish the foundation because the foundation was eligible to accept the resources to provide services to the senior citizens which was not transmittable to the county itself. Mr. Dixon said yes. Mrs. Woodward continued and stated that the foundation would to continue the disbursement of the monies and the services.

Mr. Dixon explained the nonprofit has a board that oversees it. They will be working closely and one model presented to the board is that the Executive Director of Elder Affairs would be the Executive Director of the nonprofit. However, should that become a problem, the foundation will have their own Executive Director.

Commissioner Green wanted clarification, he asked if they have any more questions or concerns as relates to package because this will come before the Board for a vote on Tuesday. If so, get it out now.

Chair NeSmith said hopefully this will bring clarity and they will be able to focus on just the document.

Commissioner Simpkins asked, on the budget piece, in looking at salary and benefits, was all the funding going directly to Senior Foundation or was the County distributing? She asked if the County would be distributing the salaries and benefits and were able to do that?

Mr. Dixon said salaries and benefits at the top was the disbursement from the Board and Mr. Dixon stated that was the donation from the Board. Chair NeSmith asked if they were voting on the \$263,492.00 and Mr. Dixon stated they were voting on \$475,000. The expenses would be under the County's control. Mr. Dixon stated they were not sure if they would get the grant. He further explained they were unsure if they would get the grant, but want to maintain and begin to increase services and this was to pay salaries through the end of the fiscal year.

Commissioner Hinson said he had heartburn when he thought of Midway and they were not focused on them, they focused on Chattahoochee, Quincy and Havana. He added Gretna was excluded as well. What if the Board of Directors did not want to deal with County anymore after receiving the money. Before he approved this, he wanted to see the budget for the Gadsden Community Health Council that the Board established. He asked to be provided a worksheet on their budget before giving the \$475,000.

Chair NeSmith said they had this conversation previously and they could give stipulations before giving any money.

Mr. Knowles said what they needed to understand moving forward and the Clerk has addressed this and Commissioners have called him about it, is this organization going to be an instrumentality of county? Meaning, is the County providing funding for the organization and the County will be the sole source of funding? If so, there will need to be some things they need to do to make sure the proper processes were in place and that the County has adequate control over that entity. He added that what he heard today was the County was starting a non-profit and the County's Executive Director of Elderly Affairs would be running that organization, and that sounds as though it was an instrumentality of the County so they would exert a certain amount of control over that based on what goes into that corporation's by-laws as is constituted. They would need to look at that on Tuesday and make sure they had a clear understanding of how the organization was set up and how that organization would be run, particularly as an instrumentality of the County. If not, and it is a separate nonprofit and they were giving gap money and anticipate receiving some of those monies back, then they could contractually accomplish some of those audit and spending controls, just as with other vendors in building roads, the vendors take draws, etc. That needed to be understood before having a conversation on what they were doing moving forward. receive some of those monies back done in right way. Mr. Dixon said it was intended to be a gap money.

Chair NeSmith said they needed to move forward with the current document and asked him to get with the County Administrator so he understood the relationship.

Mr. Knowles asked regarding the salaries and benefits in the requested budget of \$263,492.00, once that was paid out, it would not come back to the County. Mr. Dixon said correct. Mr. Knowles asked with the other line item expenses, once paid out, would it come back to the Board and Mr. Dixon responded no, those were operations of the facility. Mr. Knowles stated as he was reading and understanding from the commissioners, this was an instrumentality of the County that they will exert a decent amount of control of through the Administrator by and through the Executive Director of Elder Affairs and that needed to be reflected in the bylaws. If that was not it he and the Administrator could get together and figure out a way to do that. What he was seeing seems to suggest this will be an instrumentality of the County, if they give the money back, fine, that was one hand putting money into the other hand.

Chair NeSmith asked that he said if the entity received a grant, there was a possibility they could claw something back and Mr. Dixon said yes, that was a decision the Board would make about whether or not they wanted their money back. Chair NeSmith said they would not have that option until they knew if they were approved for a grant. Mr. Dixon said that was correct.

Mr. Knowles said the Board had to guide them on what they wanted them to do, if they wanted it set up as a direct support organization, essentially an instrumentality of the County, there was a way to do that. If they wanted it set up as an organization that was a separate nonprofit that simply received funding from the County but has an audit and responsibilities to report back to the County, there was a way to do that. It was up to the Board and not up to him or the Administrator.

Chair NeSmith asked Commissioner Hinson if the attorney answered some of his concerns. Commissioner Hinson said he just wanted to discuss it and be transparent.

Commissioner Holt said she did not think it was a problem being clawed back, when the program moved, the money moved. It was very simple, if the program had stayed there, the money would have stayed there and they could have paid their bills. She asked the attorney when he received a document and he stated it was online. He was referring to the bylaws, they were not attached. She stated she was referring to this document and bought if there were questions, he and the Administrator would have discussed them. Mr. Knowles tried to explain he could not move forward without direction and Commissioner Holt interjected and said she was not asking him to do anything, all she was saying was when he saw things in the document, he should ask the Administrator what was going on, then get together and answer some of these questions. All she was saying, was any of this money going to come back, yes or no and under what means would it come back or may not; what type of organization was this going to be. She said the reason she said that was because if the Clerk said was it going to be this, this or this, then she thought they would have some answers to by brought to their attention. She said it was just unusual when the Clerk brings it and she thought he should have already had conversation going on about it.

Mr. Knowles asked if he could finish and stated this was not something he could work out with the Administrator without knowing the direction shall the Board intended to take. He listed some examples and said he understood her concerns but thought they were a little misplaced because they were at the workshop now to discuss this and the question was asked how they were going to have the proper control over the organization to ensure that the money was well spent. He felt that was an obvious concern around the dais. He said when they vote on this on Tuesday and give them the direction, they will work with whomever they say, whether Gadsden Wellness, Gadsden Senior Citizens Foundation, whoever the entity or entities is or are, they would work within those timelines to ensure that their wishes were taken care of and followed. He felt they were a bit premature in saying to tell them what they were doing when they had to give the attorney and Administrator direction.

Commissioner Holt said she was not asking for direction in what they were doing, she said was it plan A or plan B and she would like to have an attorney's opinion on all items on the agenda so when they look at them, he already has documentation as State Statutes, etc. so they were ready to go. She also thought they needed to stop bashing CDGC and the Health Council because the members of the GCDC were the same ones they will have to have as the Economic Development person. She also said she felt that with all of the organizations they fund should have to sign a disclaimer say they may be audited.

Chair NeSmith asked Mr. Dixon what authority they had with Gadsden Senior Services to receive their financials. Mr. Dixon said they volunteered. Chair NeSmith asked that at any point they could have cut the County off and said they would operate without Gadsden County and Mr. Dixon said yes. Chair NeSmith asked if the only authority they had was the Seniors was in a county owned building and Mr. Dixon said no, there was an agreement with them about the amount of money. He said the audit was not of their entire books, it would be of the amount of money given to them.

Commissioner Green said there was a purpose why Mrs. Woodward asked her question. He wanted to make sure they had everything in order as it related to the process they were getting ready to adopt or vote on the next Tuesday. He asked Mr. Dixon to give insight as to how the Tallahassee organization was set up based upon the knowledge he received when he did his visitation.

Mr. Dixon said Wakulla sent them to Leon County and they were glad to show the layout of their organization Not because they had the same problem but because they needed the city and the county to have some influence on maintaining the levels of service that were being received. They set up a situation where it was a part of the Parks and Recreation division. They set it up where the person that was in charge of that division or otherwise the Superintendent or manager who ran that program or maintained that program on behalf of the city and the county also was the Executive Director of the Board of the nonprofit. He said he understood the nonprofit was designed the same way and had one purpose: to help the city's senior citizen program. That foundation meets on a regular basis, bring money into the program and they decide a lot of the programs they will sponsor based on the monies they get in cooperation with the city. That person is allowed not to commingle the money, but the supplementation of money where the nonprofit may be guided to do certain programs and the city may be guided to do other programs. He said there were a lot of people involved in the nonprofit and they were responsible for volunteerism, fundraising, program design and management, for recruiting and retention. The City's point was they wanted to provide other services that they knew if the nonprofit got a grant, they would have to do. They would have to maintain the building, paint the building, pay janitorial services, and all wraparound services that the city now does and the grant could be used almost 100% for the use of seniors. That setup works for them. That was run by folks that dealt with the Area on Aging and they liked the system. He said they would not have brought a system they did not think would survive or muster legally or otherwise. It is an opportunity. If the Board decides it was shady and the nonprofit had to get their own Executive Director that would not be a problem. He said this board was set up for one purpose and one purpose alone, could they build in certain things as noticed by the Commissioner and the attorney, absolutely. He said the nonprofit did not survive without the city wrapped around it.

Commissioner Green asked how often the nonprofit reported to or met with the city commissioners and asked only because there was a mentality of "I got you" or "we got you" opposed to trying to really work out things together for the betterment of everyone.

Commissioner Simpkins had questions regarding the budget and read from the Policy and Procedures Manual. She asked if they would receive the total \$475,000 upfront because in the manual it said "the Center Director may move money between line items in the Elderly Affairs accounts only. Total Expenses may not exceed the amount budgeted." She said that was why she asked and made it seem it was in their budget. Mr. Dixon said it was Elderly Affairs program but the County would do as they do with most of the time, would send out a monthly stipend or request for funding. All that funding would not be given at the same time.

Commissioner Hinson said the reason why he brought up GCDC and the Health Council was because those were two that were under the umbrella of the County. He said once a nonprofit receives state dollars, and can carry on themselves, they could leave and not need the County anymore.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
February 1, 2023 – Gadsden County Senior Citizens Center Workshop

Mr. Knowles said the Board has to tell them what they want to be the guardrails. They might decide they want to appoint the board members or have a contractual agreement that their funding was contingent upon, i.e., they would only receive their money every quarter after receiving financials or audit. He said it was things for them to think about.

Chair NeSmith asked if that should be done in the bylaws or did they need to establish a Memorandum of Understanding with the organization because they want it to be a separate organization and not be government controlled. They wanted to make sure they had accountability but it has to maintain its independence.

Mr. Knowles said he did not think an MOU was what they wanted, if they were not trying to exert the maximum amount of control or oversight over that board or organization, then you have a contractual agreement that sets out the expectations to receive funding. Mr. Knowles did state that everything they talked about was possible, he and the Administrator just needed to know the direction the Board wanted to go in.

Commissioner Holt asked that he put some of the options out in an email to them.

Commissioner Hinson left at 6:29 pm

Mr. Knowles said he could send the Board several options and would try to reach out to the City of Tallahassee to not reinvent the wheel and present them with options.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH DECLARED THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED AT 6:30 PM.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

KIMBLIN MESMITH, Chair

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FL ON FEBRUARY 7, 2023
AT 6:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING
WAS HAD, VIZ:**

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

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Nesmith welcomed everyone to the meeting at 6:01 p.m. Robbie Jones had Hunter Lasley do the invocation and then Chloe Palmer proceeded with the Pledge of Allegiance of the U.S. Flag.

Amendments and Approval of Agenda

Mr. Dixon said he had an amendment to the agenda and asked to pull items # 13 and #14. Commissioner Green asked if there was a reason and Mr. Dixon said they were not ready.

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

Awards, Presentations and Appearances

1. Recognition of Chrissy Shorter-Arnold
(Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners)

Mr. Dixon presented the above item and Commissioner Green presented the recognition.

2. Recognition of Shandra Wright
(Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners)

Mr. Dixon presented the above item and Commissioner Green presented the recognition.

3. Scouts BSA (Boy Scouts America) Presentation

(Robbie Jones, Extension Director/Chuck Laslie, Cub Master Pack 201/Clay Fallis, Troop Master

Pack 201/Jonathan Hutto, Program Director)

Scouts BSA went up to take a picture with the Board. Mr. Jones thanked the Board. He said February 8th is national boy scout day. It is called Scouts BSA because it is for boys and girls. He had Chuck Laslie come up to speak. Mr. Laslie said the program is design to give the kids a safe place to socialize, learn and build character traits. He gave more activities that the kids are involved in and more information on the program.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
February 7, 2023, Regular Meeting

Commissioner Green said he was a cub scout and boy scout. He thanked them for their service. Commissioner Holt thanked them as well.

Clay Fallis spoke to the board about his experience as a scout. He was a police officer before and has never arrested an eagle scout. He said we learn more from failure than we do from success. He said they average about 7 members in the troop a year and it teaches perseverance and leadership.

Jonathan Hutto spoke to the board about updates. He said the program headquarters is here in Quincy. He asked for the boards support in this program.

Commissioner Hinson said they will hopefully bring a teen center to Havana and would like for them to be a part of it.

Consent

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

Commissioner Hinson said that they need to inform the community on what is going on with EMS, Item #6. Mr. Dixon said they are transforming from EMS to fire rescue. This is an opportunity to get somebody else's money. This grant will allow them to get \$175,000 but requires a 10 percent match, for equipment.

4. Ratification Memo
(Clerk of Court)
5. BOCC Meeting/Workshop Minutes
 - a. January 3, 2023 BOCC Regular Meeting
 - b. January 5, 2023 Gadsden County Senior Citizens Foundation Workshop
 - c. January 17, 2023 BOCC Regular Meeting
6. Approval to Apply for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant
(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator)
7. Gadsden County Courthouse Elevator Modernization
(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator)
8. Guy Race Judiciary Annex Elevator Modernization
(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator)

Items Pulled for Discussion

Item #13 and #14 were pulled.

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 February 7, 2023. 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.

Commissioner Hinson said this was brought to them during COVID. If someone wants to come to the meeting and speak today, there should be a form for them to fill out.

Public Hearings

Mike Watson, 2793 Sycamore Rd Quincy, FL – Mr. Watson talked about Sycamore Rd. It wasn't on the list to get resurfaced and he doesn't understand why. He said during Hurricane Michael, it knocked down a lot of trees. On Evan Clark Rd, there is a pit where a lot of trees were taken. The big trucks were there for several months. The road gets worse with every rain storm. Sycamore Rd should be on top of the priority list when roads are resurfaced again.

Janet Watson, 2793 Sycamore Rd Quincy, FL – She wanted them to know she is home every day and sees big trucks go down the road and the road is terrible. She has had comments made that county commissioners need to get off their butts and get on that road to see how bad it is.

Mr. Dixon said he has been on that road and they have submitted it to the engineers. It is a point process and the worse roads need to go to the top.

Commissioner Hinson said there must be potholes. He said sometimes they do that inhouse. It may take a couple years to get it and it will still be a process. He said if they can just clear the potholes.

Chair Nesmith said it starts in Greensboro to Flat Creek. Mr. Dixon said it is not the pavement, it is in the base.

Commissioner Holt said during hurricane Michael, the trucks were so large, it pulled the pavement up off the ground. They have to go through the state with either SCOP or SCRAP to get money.

Commissioner Holt said the engineers work for the county and when they send them in, the state and federal government choose which one comes first.

Dr. Margelet Hamilton, 380 Tobacco Road – Neighbor citizen concern.

Ms. Hamilton spoke about the tobacco road neighborhood. She said they had a home owners association in 2015 and it was coming to the end of the association, the paperwork shows the HOA was dissolved in 2017. Gadsden County roads have been coming in surveying and fixing their roads but now they were told they are responsible for doing their own because they have a home owners association, which they do not. They want Gadsden County roads to take care of their road repairs. They take care of Salem Road but now they said they are not in their jurisdiction. The vice president registered this information, not with the courthouse in Gadsden County, but with the Division of Corporations. She said they have to get it filed in the courthouse to get it official. She does not know where the original paperwork is. The courthouse will not accept the document she has even though it is through the Division of Corporations. She was there to see if the board could do anything to help them and can they give guidance on what they need to do to move forward.

Chair Nesmith asked where it is located and what district is it in? it is in District 2, which is Commissioner Simpkins district.

Commissioner Green asked how many roads are in the subdivision, and if the roads are public roads or private roads. Ms. Hamilton said it is about 4 or 5 roads. She said she believes they are private roads.

Commissioner Simpkins was going to ask that. Ms. Hamilton said they are paved. She confirmed it is Gadsden County roads with public works. Mr. Dixon asked her to send him her information to talk about it.

Commissioner Hinson said if it is a green sign, it is a public road, and if it is blue, it is a private road.

Commissioner Holt said if the developer goes in, they had to pave their streets. Commissioner Simpkins said she will be researching it and get with the administrator about it.

Anthony Viegbesie, 989 Ames Barineau Rd Havana, FL – Dr. Viegbesie spoke before the board and thanked them all for what they do. He gave the following words of encouragement to them:

“Good evening,

Chairman Nesmith, Vice-Chair Hinson, and board members.

I would like to begin by commending and thanking you for all that you continue to do in making Gadsden County great. I come to you today solely to give a word of encouragement and nothing else. In the words of Martin Luther King Jr., “You have before you the glorious opportunities to inject new dimensions of those collaborative love and honest dedication into the veins of Gadsden’s county’s growth and prosperity”.

Commissioners, remember that you don't have to always agree on all things. Please know that if everyone agrees on everything, then someone is unnecessary.

So, should you disagree, you must respectfully agree to disagree agreeably. I declare that there is never a wrong time to do what is right.

People who are elected into public office are not elected to vote for what is popular, what is expedient, and what is self-enriching.

Rather, they are elected to vote for what is right according to the will of God and will improve the quality of life for the citizens who elected them. In other words, let the works you do speak for you.

Please, commissioners, do not let the politics of fear, sense of divisiveness, and self-enrichment distort your pursuit of honesty, integrity, and truth or obstruct our community's path to progress and prosperity.

Commissioners, a community is as strong as its people are united.

So, as a commission, you must not see yourselves as a district commissioner, even though you may have been elected by a single-member-district process.

Rather, if you are going to make Gadsden County great and a better place to live, work, and play for all who reside in it, you should see yourselves as Gadsden County Commissioners.

I am suggesting that you always Remember the mission of the GCBODC which states: "To build a better community by offering efficient, sustainable services, encouraging economic development and providing public safety to improve the quality of life."

Know that the only politics that matters is the politics that make the county a better place for all.

As a commission, you should work as a team.

Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. It is the ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organizational Objectives. Teamwork is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results. To be able to do so, you cannot advocate for economic development and, at the same time, support actions that create organizational instability. To do so is absolutely oxymoron. In other words, I am saying that you cannot bark with dogs and run with the rabbits. Furthermore, let us not be that army that shots down its own strong and capable soldiers and expects to win their wars. In closing, my question to you is, "Can a community progress, grow and prosper if its people insist on continuing with a culture of self-cannibalism due to individual narcissistic personalities and idiosyncrasies"? Dearly beloved, I do not think so. Now, let us pray. Father God, I pray that you will continue to bestow your grace and mercy upon this Commission as they have been commissioned to dedicate themselves to doing the work of the people and for the people with the heart of a servant leader is my prayer. This is my prayer. Thank you, and may God bless Gadsden County.

Dr. V.

General Business

9. Approval of Resolution #2023-004 Adopting the Gadsden County Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) Plan 2022 Update

Mr. Dixon presented the above item.

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

10. Appointments/Reappointments to the Small County Coalition Board of Directors

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. In the past, Commissioner Holt and Commissioner Hinson has served as the representative on the board. Commissioner Green asked the commissioners that are currently serving if they are still interested in serving on this board. They said yes.

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

11. Gadsden County Senior Citizen Centers

Mr. Dixon presented the above item.

Commissioner Hinson made a motion to approve and Commissioner Green second it. It was open for discussion for Commissioner Hinson. He said he got a phone call from Midway saying that they were all left out from Havana, Quincy and Chattahoochee. He said he knows they approved it for \$475,000 for the process. He agrees with supporting the senior citizens. He motioned to approve but that they give Havana \$50,000, Midway \$50,000, Gretna \$50,000, Chattahoochee \$50,000 and divide the remaining \$275,000 to the other organizations. The non-profit organization can find additional funding with what they want to do. There is \$275,000 remaining, they have to show the state that they work with them to some capacity. They will divide \$275,000, that will give them \$137,000 between the Gadsden County foundation and the other organization that they are working with. An option from him.

Commissioner Green said he resends his second because that is not what he was making his second on. Commissioner Simpkins second for discussion.

Mr. Thomas wanted them to understand that he supports senior citizens. He has no issue sending them money directly to the senior citizens, they are established not for profit entities. Where he does have a concern is the new creation. He understands that they have county employees on payroll working at the non-profit entity, they are reporting to the administrator so he is in charge of this entity. So, the board of directors has very little control, so to him it is a fraudulent representation. He said they cannot have a county employee working at the health council or any other non-profit entity. They will be running their own set of books. If you give over \$150,000 to an entity, it becomes a component of the county and needs to be audited under the County's audit. The County Administrator should not be in charge of writing checks for a non-profit entity. If his understanding is correct, he cannot send money to those entities. The administrator is supposed to be the administrator, he should not be working for the health council. He shouldn't be running the senior citizens with County money and write checks. It is unacceptable. There has to be some separation when they are talking about hundreds of thousands of dollars of ARPA money.

Chair Nesmith asked Attorney Knowles for his input on any challenges that are in violation of any policies or laws. Attorney Knowles said he will defer to Mr. Thomas to talk about his policies and laws. He did not know what he was referring to. Commissioner Hinson's motion was \$137,500 to that organization. Commissioner Nesmith asked Mr. Thomas if he was referring to the motion on the table or to the agenda item. Mr. Thomas said Commissioner Hinson broke the money down differently than what's in the plan. He said there is a senior citizens foundation they are creating with County employees. The county employees working for that foundation report to the administrator. Mr. Thomas said it could put all of them at risk. The alternative to that is with ARP money, instead of giving that money to Mr. Dixons foundation, they can run it through their ARP budget and pay that money out due to conflict of interest. Mr. Thomas said it is payroll fraud, they can't have employees of the County working at other entities. It is important to have a non-profit foundation to seek other funding. This ARP money is a temporary thing and has to be spent by December 2024. He cannot write a check to a foundation where Ed Dixon is in charge of it.

Attorney Knowles said his question is how are those individuals employed by the county and then deployed by the County to the non-profit?

Commissioner Green said it would have been nice to see Mr. Thomas last week when they workshopped this information. Mr. Thomas tried to intervene but Commissioner Green said he was still talking. He said he provided good information that they need clarity on. He asked if those members who are employed by the county were not a part of the organization, would he be ok with the foundation? Mr. Thomas said the foundation needs to be a non-profit entity, and working to secure funding, it does not to be run by the County Administrator and people on the County payroll. The alternative is to run that money that they would have given to Ed Dixon's foundation. Commissioner Green asked Mr. Thomas not to call it that because it is disrespectful. Chair Nesmith asked him to stay away from the names. Mr. Thomas apologized.

Commissioner Green said that's why he wanted clarity because he asked the question last meeting and one of his assistants opposed the question last week. He knew that was the position he was going in, that is why he asked the administrator then on how Leon County had it set up for their senior services. If they needed to move people out of the equation, they could do that. It is a good foundation to start to serve the seniors but they want to follow the rules. He received the e-mails but as an elected official, it would have been nice to have him been part of the discussion.

Commissioner Holt said she has been to a lot of board meetings and normally the person gets to respond before it gets too far down the road. She said they need to hear the other side of this to have an intelligent conversation. She asked Mr. Dixon to respond to Mr. Thomas.

Mr. Dixon apologized if this personal animus has brought any disrespect to this body. They gave the Attorney a directive last meeting to make sure there were no difficulties in moving forward with the set up. The setup is being used by everyone else but yet, it cannot be used in Gadsden County. Why is that? The Attorney send out information on Sunday responding to the question that Mr. Thomas is posing. They have no problem with how it is done, this is a partnership. It is not an attempt to manage the non-profit. Mr. Dixon said it is embarrassing to him, it is about the seniors. They will draft a document that speaks to the relationship between the board and the non-profit. It would be no different than the other non-profits. They will address this entity tonight, in the future, they will address the entities that did not want to come in. It is not an attempt to leave anyone out.

Commissioner Holt asked if they vote not to have any employees on it, including Mr. Dixon, does he have a problem with that? Mr. Thomas said no, there would be no problem. He apologized if he offended some of them in one sense, in the other sense, he's okay with that. He reserved time to figure out where he was going with it. He pointed it out to them for their own good. As that arrangement stands, he is unable to cut checks to that entity. If the County Administrator was not running it and employees were not in it, of course he would be a part of it. Commissioner Holt said she has asked if there was a state stature or ordinance. Something has to be drawn up in the agreement. They asked the attorney to look at what they can do. No one has a problem with it.

Attorney Knowles wanted to make sure they saw the memo from Sunday. It was two options, one is essentially as the Clerk has said, a direct support organization, that is an instrumentality of the county. It was the document sent about Glades Correctional Development, GCDC. That was set up by that board of county commissioners for the purpose of developing a correctional facility within that county. They chose 2 commissioners and other individuals; they took over ownership for managing that board. Mr. Thomas said he has not seen the documentation but what h can assure them is that the money still ran through the boards budget and the clerk audited and paid the bills. It is an alternative with ARP money, the money needs to the stay with the board and run through their accounts through American Rescue funds and the clerk will audit and pay their bills. It does not need to go to a foundation that has county employees that report to the administrator that will keep his own books on it. Commissioner Nesmith asked if Mr. Thomas spoke to the administrator? Mr. Thomas said no. Attorney Knowles said the second option would be similar to the agenda item, which would be an organization that is separate from the Board of County Commissioners, it is it's own non-profit with its own board and similar to the organization in Tallahassee, which is the Tallahassee Senior Citizens Foundation. They receive \$179,000 from the County and from the City of Tallahassee. Mr. Thomas said if it has no other funding, and it may be a component unit for a little while. Mr. Thomas said their situation is a temporary situation. Mr. Dixon said things are being taken out of context and he does not want them to.

Mr. Dixon said they do not need a non-profit to fund senior citizens, the County has the ability to do that itself. They want a partnership with a non-profit because it could guarantee an additional million dollars from the Area Agency and other funders. The idea is simply to create opportunities for the non-profit to go and get its own funding. This is not made-up stuff. They modeled after a County intentionally. Attorney Knowles said in Leon County, there are partnerships where the BOCC provides funding to non-profit organizations, they need to have a contract that sets forth the rights and responsibilities of both parties. Mr. Thomas said it sounds like they are trying to have it both ways. It sounds like they want the foundation to be a non-profit and a county department at the same time on the fiscal management part of it. If it is a separate non-for-profit entity, where there are no county employees on the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners payroll working at the non-profit,

that board of directors has no power because these administrative employees work for the County administrator.

Commissioner Nesmith also stated that he wished Mr. Thomas would have been at the workshop to discuss this matter. He asked Mr. Knowles if the City of Chattahoochee have staff there at the facility, at the separate organization? Mr. Dixon said they are co-located at the armory.

Commissioner Green said he likes legal information. He said that the Clerk stated he will not pay, he will not do, he, he, he. His question is if there is a statute or a law, he can provide them that deals with where they are with the situation? Commissioner Green said it sounds personal right now. Mr. Thomas said it is really not personal. He said the constitution says the Clerk is the custodian of County funds and the statute says the Clerk is the accountant to the County Commissioners. It is another way of saying the BOCC and staff are not allowed to handle the County's money. The Clerk is required to question something if he thinks it's inappropriate or illegal. When the Clerk questions something, it is then incumbent upon the BOCC, through the attorney or through the administrator, to provide some sort of documentation to the Clerk to satisfy his concern. Commissioner Green said his question wasn't answered but he will figure it out.

Commissioner Simpkins said she appreciates the information. She said they both play apart because if they had questions, then they should have contacted him as well. She wants to make sure they are doing this right. She said she understands that none of the County employees can be a part of this foundation. She asked Mr. Dixon if there are any County employees that are going to be an employee of the foundation? Mr. Dixon said no. They will set up the contractual agreement with the foundation. So, if they do it in that manner, that would be ok. She asked about the policies in the workshop, so she can see where the confusion could be. Mr. Thomas asked are they currently County employees? He asked are they current county employees who were former senior citizens employees who will be working for the foundation under administrator Dixon? Mr. Dixon said the form they were following was that of Leon County. In the last meeting, the board wanted a different structure and directed the attorney to look at the structures. Commissioner Simpkins asked if any individuals that will be working with the senior foundation, current county employees? Mr. Dixon said no.

Ms. Washington said she works for the county and her job is to get funding for the foundation, is she going to lose her job? Mr. Dixon said no. Commissioner Green said she will work for grants; they are going to want somebody to go after grants so that they can get the monies to sustain. His question goes back to if there is a statute or a law that says they cannot work for the county and be a part of the non-profit foundation, especially when it comes to grant writing. Mr. Thomas said he answered that question and wants to know if the foundation received money, who handles that? Mr. Dixon said until the takeover, GSS would manage that money. Mr. Thomas asked if it is any of his staff? Mr. Dixon said no. Mr. Thomas clarified that there are 2 people on the County payroll receiving funds for GSS. County employees shouldn't handle this money because they work for the county administrator. They can't give money to county staff running a separate set of books. Chair Nesmith confirmed that they have 2 employees under BOCC that are co-located at the foundation and not handling any of the books for Gadsden Senior services. Mr. Dixon said it is imperative that you read the stuff that they write. There are 2 situations, there is a non-profit situation and they are set up with their board, and there will be the County. The county will not run the operations of the building. To manage the programming, will come through the senior services. The idea is to have that body out there. Those employees will not become county employees. It is an attempt to model another program, not to undermine any money. He said these attacks on his integrity are getting old by people who ought to know better. How are they going to get citizens to volunteer? They employ other folk to ensure that they are fundraising and engaged in other opportunities. Why does Gadsden County always have to have the worse stuff like stealing and thieving? He cannot come up with a good argument, he shows up at the last minute and wants to throw a bomb in the middle of everything. He doesn't have a better plan or a plan to help.

you have an answer, give it to them. Commissioner Nesmith asked if the 2 employees that they have at the Gadsden Senior Services will be writing checks for the foundation? Mr. Dixon said not under the plan they are going to adopt. Commissioner Nesmith asked if they will be maintaining their budget? Mr. Dixon said they will be partnering with the foundation to create a program for seniors.

Commissioner Holt said any agreement has to come back to the board. She agrees with Mr. Thomas that they shouldn't have county employees working with the non-profit. Commissioner Holt said they talked about the same thing last week and Mr. Thomas said the document he received did not reflect that. She will not vote for the money to be parceled out.

Commissioner Simpkins wants clarification. They have determined that the foundation has employees that are not county employees currently? Mr. Dixon said yes. Commissioner Simpkins asked if there are other employees aside from the 2 employees they mentioned? Mr. Dixon said no, they are the only ones. Commissioner Nesmith said the foundation has employees; they just have 2 that are there. Commissioner Simpkins said no. She asked how many employees the foundation currently has? Commissioner Simpkins asked when Mr. Thomas cuts checks, is he cutting the checks to GSS or to Gadsden Senior Foundation? Mr. Dixon said it will be the foundation. Commissioner Simpkins how many employees does Gadsden Senior Foundation have? Ms. Latoya Fryson said GSS has 15 employees. Commissioner Simpkins asked if all of those employees will be coming over to the Gadsden Senior foundation? Ms. Fryson said that is correct. Commissioner Simpkins asked if that will take place once they fund Gadsden Senior foundation? Ms. Fryson said once the foundation and everything is set up with the board's approval.

Commissioner Hinson said the prior organization lost funding because of something. The state took the funding and put it into two other state funds. Last week, the conversation was about how they can strengthen the senior citizens. He thought the organization was abolished. Based on what Mr. Cunningham was saying last week, the organization was closed. He did not know they were still in existence. That is why he said they should put funding into infrastructure.

Commissioner Green said Mr. Cunningham stated the foundation was still running and they were running out of money.

Commissioner Holt disagrees with everything Commissioner Hinson said. They said there was money left on the table that was available. This is not about the programs; they need to set up an organization so they could monitor everything. Commissioner Holt said they funded everyone except Greensboro. She called the question. Commissioner Hinson said it is not fair for a commissioner to say something about another commissioner without a rebuttal. He said that Commissioner Holt said they want to monitor the organization, but once it's a non-profit, it's almost impossible. It is not fair to give funding to one organization and not fund the other. Commissioner Hinson said it is difficult to restate the motion. He said \$475,000 cannot pay for 15 people. Commissioner Hinson resend his motion but he still want to fund Havana, \$50,000, Midway \$50,000, Gretna \$50,000 and Chattahoochee \$50,000 and at the same time he doesn't want to hurt the other organizations. Commissioner Simpkins resend her second. Commissioner Simpkins made a motion to accept this proposal and also schedule a special meeting within the next week to address the additional senior non-profit organizations/Holt second.

Commissioner Hinson said if the County auditor said there may be some things there and the county attorney is not sure about the information, maybe they should review it. He thinks they need to wait 2 weeks so that the administrator and clerk can get together to see if there's a problem in the policy.

Commissioner Green said the question has been asked as it relates to the employees being on the board. He said it was a personal opinion, no statutes involved. Commissioner Hinson asked if it is

501C3? Mr. Dixon said they have applied for it. Commissioner Hinson said, so they are going to give \$475,000 to an organization that is not a 501c3. Commissioner Simpkins thought that they established what was being done was proper. Mr. Thomas said he never said that, he said that it was on them to provide him the documentation to satisfy his concerns and he hasn't received anything. His statement stands as he said them earlier.

Commissioner Simpkins resend her motion and Commissioner Holt resend her second.

Commissioner Holt motion to approve option 1, approve the recommendation for the total amount that is listed. Commissioner Holt said money can't move because the clerk isn't going to pay it if he doesn't have the documentation. Commissioner Green said he thought they were passed the 501c3. He wants to know what's the hold up on it? Mr. Dixon said you apply and it takes a minute. Commissioner Green said even if they vote to move this, the money won't be given to the organization until it is a 501c3.

Attorney Knowles said whatever model they decide to go with, the contract will come back before the board. He can meet with the clerk about his concerns in the contract. Attorney Knowles confirmed that Commissioner's Simpkins motion for a special meeting was withdrawn. She confirmed it was withdrawn. Commissioner Green second Holt's motion.

Commissioner Simpkins said GSS needs money now to continue, but the 501c3 is not an overnight process. It may take months. If money is not going to be released, then they are still in the same position.

Mr. Dixon said the other groups out there don't have to be a 501c3, it's something non-profits do to be more attractable for grant funding. Commissioner Nesmith confirmed that it just needs to be a non-profit and the 501c3 is not required. Mr. Dixon said no.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION FOR THE TOTAL AMOUNT THAT IS LISTED IN OPTION #1 AND COMMISSIONER GREEN SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE MOTION.

12. Approval to Award RFP No. 23-02 Professional Services-CDBG-CV Grant Project Engineers/Engineering Consultants (Stevens School)
(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator)

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

13. Discussion and Direction of the Agreement with the Krizner Group-PULLED
(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator)

14. ***Approval of the Spending Plan for the Gadsden County Bicentennial Celebration - ITEM WILL BE PULLED***
(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator)

15. Approval of the Purchase Agreement for the Property Located at Gadsden County Parcel ID# 3-24-2N-4W-0000-00330-0100 (Pat Thomas Parkway) (Material To Be Provided)
(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator)

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

Commissioner Hinson said he wanted to know about the lease agreement that they have. He said it is 2 years and 5 additional years with the paint and body shop. Attorney Knowles said the current tenant does not wish to remain in the lease and would like to negotiate a way out of that. There are two other residential leases, that can be terminated within 30 or 60 days. Commissioner Hinson asked is it possible that they can close this contract? It will look bad as a board if they have to evict someone. Attorney Knowles said they would like to get out of their lease. Commissioner Hinson said they had a workshop on this and the body shop was not included. Chair Nesmith said the body shop was harmless, developments were on other side of property. Mr. Dixon said it was all ideal.

Commissioner Green said they aren't going to ask someone to leave their home. He asked if they are going to provide assistance to those who live on the property? Mr. Dixon said they are on the fringe of the property; they will be able to come up with some ideas.

Commissioner Hinson said what if they don't want to leave. Mr. Dixon said they not have to ask them to leave, they may be able to stay. Commissioner Green was asking because that is his area and wants to make sure they do have a plan. Mr. Dixon said they have had 6 inquiries this week alone. Commissioner Hinson said what if Mr. Dixon retires after this motion is approved, and they want a different direction, they can do what they want. These decisions need to be worked on before the business.

Commissioner Holt said it is a property agreement. When looking at property, if they want to sell it to those two individuals, that's up to the board. There are a lot of options out there when it comes to property.

16. Discussion and Direction of North Florida Rural Health

(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator)

Mr. Dixon said he recommended that they have a workshop on the issue.

Commissioner Green apologized to Mr. Quick for traveling and waiting for this item.

Kyle Quick thanked the board. He is the President and CEO of North Florida Rural Health which is a 501c3. The presentation is about the uninsured citizens of Gadsden County. They are asking that the Board of County Commissioners set aside one million dollars for this pool. If they see a patient, they pull from that pool at a rate of \$150,000. If they don't see any uninsured patients, they don't receive any money. Their team went around and found out why the citizens are not going to the doctors. There is a lack of transportation, so transportation is included, pharmacy is included, primary care is included, dental is included, \$150 per visit. He said for the uninsured citizens only, will the county allow \$150. When they see the patients, they also take them and put them in the market place to get them insured. In the 2nd year, there is a million dollars, they take \$100,000 place it with the state and federal fund. Those are matching funds. They will do 2 to 1. That will give them an opportunity to bring in additional medical staff. They still have to see up to \$100,000 before they can draw down again. It states in the Ordinance that they qualify to ask for the money. Chair Nesmith said they need to workshop this.

Commissioner Green asked if he knows about the bond clinic in Tallahassee? Mr. Quick said yes. Commissioner Green asked how similar it is, service wise? Mr. Quick said yes, primary care, dental, pharmacy, lab, transportation, etc. Commissioner Nesmith said people that have insurance will be able to use the facility? Mr. Quick said yes.

Commissioner Holt said the need is there. They need to make sure it has a 50-year lease. When they come back for a workshop, he should bring some people. Mr. Quick said there is no exposure with the county at all; no service, no money. Commissioner Holt said it is important to help them get insurance.

Commissioner Green asked how soon will he be available to do the workshop? Mr. Quick said tomorrow. Commissioner Holt said ASAP, before hurricane season.

17. Settlement Agreement for Smythe v. GCBOCC (*Material to be provided*)

(Clayton F. Knowles, Esq., County Attorney)

Attorney Knowles said as they discussed in their executive session, this is an agreement for Albert Smythe.

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

Clerk of Court

18. Updates

(Nicholas Thomas, Clerk)

Mr. Thomas did not have any additional comments.

County Administrator

19. Updates

(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator)

Mr. Dixon said they have the EMS and Animal Control workshop tomorrow at 4pm. On Thursday, they have a workshop with the School Board and the City of Quincy at 4pm at the Research Center. Commissioner Hinson asked what the meeting is for. Mr. Dixon said this is more about the school and how to get the school money. Commissioner Hinson said the school board is their own entity and other than politics, they cannot tell the board anything. He said once they burn bridges, it is hard to make those connections. He said he does not want to waste his time at all and wants to know the reason of the meeting. He said the school board voted to increase the half sales tax. The superintendent forgot to turn it in to be on the ballot. He said if he is going to forget things as a superintendent, how will they be able to help them out at all? Chair Nesmith said the chairman of the board approached them to share their vision plan for the new school and how they can assist them. Commissioner Hinson said its more than just the school. Commissioner Holt said no one builds a school without meeting with local government so they can have some collaboration.

Mr. Dixon said they have the NACO Conference that starts this weekend. They have been in contact with the Sherriff due to the accident at the Robert F. Monroe entrance. They have talked about extending some traffic while DOT does what they need to do. They may require extra deputies.

County Attorney

20. Updates

(Clayton Knowles, Esq., County Attorney)

Attorney Knowles said there is another case, which is a personal injury regarding an ambulance. They are ready to resolve it, and would like to have an executive session.

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

Discussion Items by Commissioners

21. Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2

Commissioner Simpkins said she has gotten calls in regards to the fire rating. They are actively working on it. They need to make sure that the citizens know that they are working in it. She feels that they need to advertise and try to recruit some volunteer firefighters, maybe through the newspaper, WCTV, or WTXL. She wants for them to schedule a workshop to discuss the AHCA funding. Also wants a workshop to discuss the hospital and the indigent tax. She made a motion to have a special meeting in 14 days in regards to funding the other senior organizations and Commissioner Green second it. Mr. Dixon said if they are going to make decisions on that, they need proper time to advertise. Attorney Knowles said they could just advertise it like at the City Hall.

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION FOR A SPECIAL MEETING WITHIN 14 DAYS AND COMMISSIONER HINSON SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt asked for the ISO Ratings, if they are volunteers, are there certain levels of certification? Andre Walker said for the volunteer firefighters, they call them firefighter 1 and firefighter 2 is for paid firefighters. She suggested that they should give a stipend. Chief Walker said firefighter 1 is about a year worth of training. They are trained in Quincy but they don't have enough people to hold a class. They need at least a class of 12. They have 142 volunteers in the County. Commissioner Holt said if they decide to encourage them, they should give them a stipend for training. The average age is 18 and a high school graduate. Commissioner Green asked for a letter that they are working on a solution so that the citizens will know. Commissioner Holt asked if they require level 1 at each station, at least one? Mr. Dixon said it requires 4 level 1's. They are changing the face of EMS and this county has a great history of volunteer firemen. However, they are ageing out. They looked at how they do their strategies. They are looking at adding additional personnel into EMS. EMS people are certified firemen but haven't been using them to that capacity. Commissioner Holt said cross training may be an option. There are 11 fire stations. They need at least 44. Chief Walker said if they are speaking of putting 4 firefighters 24 hours, they have to have 3 shifts. He said they have a roster share/mutual aid which allows firefighters to be a member of multiple stations.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if the 11 stations include the Dogtown Greenshade? Chief Walker said they are included and Commissioner Simpkins said they are not recognized on the insurance companies. Chief Walker said they are not on there because they are new. He said ISO hasn't been able to come out and evaluate them. Commissioner Simpkins asked if they need to schedule ISO to come out? Chief Walker said the chief does that. The Chief for Greenshade is responsible. Commissioner Simpkins asked if a certain number of firemen have to remain at the station? Chief Walker said not for volunteers. No one has to be at the station, they have to be on their roster. ISO only looks at house fires. They asked the chief to pull structure fires. Mr. Dixon said the truck moves immediately. Chair Nesmith said Havana ISO rating went down and asked if that was because less than 3 firefighters were showing up to a fire? Chief Walker said if ISO calls to schedule, if they do not respond, they automatically bump you up to 10. So, someone did not respond to a call.

Commissioner Green said if they can workshop it. He said there is a fee to be certified so he would like to see how they can assist with covering those fees. Chair Nesmith said tomorrow is EMS workshop. Commissioner Green said they can further the conversation. Mr. Dixon said they were waiting to put out a letter to put out on the workshop. Commissioner Hinson said this needs to be an exclusive workshop and asked if they can receive the information 4-5 days in advance so they can go over it. They changed the laws late last year. Mr. Dixon said their program was a lot of volunteerism.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
February 7, 2023, Regular Meeting

Commissioner Holt looking at the comments about them, how they are on track and then they are not on track. She said if they can just get back to the business. People are saying they are talking too long, they just need to call the question. She asked for a section on the agenda item for legal opinions.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5

Commissioner Green invited the national hook up of black women. He would like for them to come in and give information.

Commissioner Eric F. Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson asked Attorney Knowles if it is legal for someone outside to video the meeting? Attorney Knowles said yes, it is a public meeting. He asked for a proclamation for Ms. Simmons who turned 106.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR MRS. SIMMONS TURNING 106 YEARS OLD AND COMMISSIONER GREEN SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Chair Nesmith said it should be a recognition. Commissioner Hinson said it is a proclamation.

Commissioner Holt left the meeting at 9:47 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson asked for a workshop on the fire rating. He said they need to figure out ways to talk to Robert F Monroe to see what can they do about Highway 90. He wants to see if there is something they can do to help them.

Commissioner Kimblin E. Nesmith, J.D., District 3

Chair Nesmith said the CRTPA is on the calendar and they need to discuss it in the next meeting. He said when he first started, he thought they would have staff to help the commissioners. He said there is 1,000 jobs available with career source. He said the board needs help because they have to go through a lot of documents to get information. They need an operations coordinator that the board members can contact during the day time. He said he lost his aid because of the work load placed upon her. They have a lot of resources available to them. He wants someone in place with the county dealing with day-to-day today operations that can assist them and update them on committee reports.

Commissioner Hinson said they have 2 years of money, sometimes it's best to invest in yourself. He told Chair Nesmith to make the motion to hire full time aids. He said they wouldn't be taking it out of the general fund.

Commissioner Nesmith wants to make sure everyone is on board. Commissioner Hinson said for him to make the motion, he just needs 2 more votes. Commissioner Nesmith made a motion to get full time aids and Commissioner Hinson second. Motion failed, needs to be discussed, it will be put on the next agenda. Chair Nesmith resend his motion and Commissioner Hinson resend his second. Ms. Daniels wanted clarification on the special meeting that was requested because that will also be the regular meeting will be in 14 days. Commissioner Simpkins said it can be within 14 days. It doesn't have to be on that exact Tuesday, it can be before that. Ms. Daniels said in order to be advertised in the local paper, it would need to be advertised by next Monday for advertisement in next Thursday's paper, which would be the 16th. Attorney Knowles said for them to remember it is a special meeting so they can post them at the city hall or advertise it in the democrat so they don't have to necessarily advertise in the local paper. Ms. Daniels said OK, point taken.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
February 7, 2023, Regular Meeting

Motion to Adjourn

**WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD. CHAIR NESMITH ADJOURNED
THE MEETING AT 10:04 P.M.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

KIMBLIN NESMITH, Chair

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FL ON FEBRUARY 7, 2023 AT 4:00 P.M.,
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

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

Call to Order, Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Nesmith welcomed everyone to the workshop at 4:02 p.m. Commissioner Green gave the invocation. Chair Nesmith proceeded with 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. February 7, 2023. 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.

Mr. Dixon read the above statement aloud.

General Business

1. Introduction

Mr. Dixon said they will hear the Local Mitigation Strategy Plan for 2022. He advised Ms. Sheree Keeler, Ms. Tashonda Whaley, Ms. Candace Heel and Mr. Justin Stiell were present to present their plan.

2. Gadsden County Local Mitigation Strategy Plan 2022 Update

Ms. Keeler from the Integrity Group presented their presentation. She wanted to give a high-level overview. She said that following the workshop, there is an agenda item on the regular board meeting seeking their approval of resolution and for it to formally be transmitted to the state. When she says the state, she means the Division of Emergency management (FDEM). The LMS plan was posted on the county's website for 10 days. They have received 0 comments. She thanked Tashonda, Candace and Justin because they are really the drivers of this plan and she is just the navigator. Mr. Anthony assisted her, he is a tech contractor, and he added a lot. He was not able to be present but he is available on zoom. It was a team that did this, not one individual. She continued with the power point included in the agenda packet.

Planning for Disaster Events Includes: Preparedness, Response, Recovery, Mitigation.

LMS Plans must be updated every five years (federal) and reviewed annually (state). It can be changed as much as they want, as long as they are in compliance.

Commissioner Simpkins stepped out at 4:22 p.m.

Commissioner Simpkins returned at 4:23 p.m.

Original LMS Plan was created in 2009.
5-year LMS Plan update was approved in 2016.
5-year LMS plan update was in process in 2022.
Next 5-year LMS Plan update required in 2027.

Commissioner Holt entered at 4:29 p.m.

LMS Plan – Six Sections to Meet Compliance Requirements:

- Section 1 – Introduction
- Section 2 – Planning Process
- Section 3 – Geography, Demographics, and Land Use
- Section 4 – Hazards, Risk and Vulnerability Assessment
- Section 5 – Mitigation Strategies
- Section 6 – Plan Evaluation, Maintenance and Adoptions

Chair Nesmith asked if all the municipalities are responsible for their own LMS Plan? Ms. Keeler said they pass a resolution to adopt it.

Commissioner Hinson said she answered his question.

Commissioner Green asked how often do they change the LMS committee and how are they selected? He said it was also a great presentation. Ms. Whaley said during the annual meeting, if there are any changes, they send their representative. During annual meeting they can change the chair or the vice chair. Commissioner Nesmith echoed Commissioner Green.

Chair Nesmith said October 10, 2018 will go down in history due to Hurricane Michael. He asked if they had an LMS plan during that time? Ms. Whaley said yes. Chair Nesmith asked what impact it had on Gadsden County and the recovery? Ms. Whaley said they received \$2.4 million due to the plan. Chair Nesmith asked if there were aspects of the plan of what they experienced that was not included, because they were just unknown. Ms. Whaley said there were some projects added and some were funded. Approving this will allow them to be funded for Hurricane Ian. She said even though Gadsden County was not directly impacted, the state bases it off tiers. Chair Nesmith asked about the mitigation fund and if they have some funds set aside for that? Mr. Dixon said she was talking about the big fund. Ms. Whaley said it is hazarding mitigation funds through the state and each county is allocated certain amount based on the damage the event caused. Chair Nesmith asked if they used all of the \$2.4 million? Mr. Dixon said they spent it all. Chair Nesmith confirmed it is a reimbursement fund. He asked who monitors compliance? Mr. Dixon said Ms. Whaley. Chair Nesmith asked for the deadline for submitting plan? Ms. Whaley said now. Chair Nesmith asked if they are working on 2022 plan? Ms. Whaley said the resolution will be adopted tonight, but the plan will go from 2022-2026. Chair Nesmith asked if they are late in getting any documentations to the federal government? Ms. Whaley said the other plan is expired so that is why they are trying to get this one in.

Commissioner Holt said the commissioners are responsible for Emergency Management. The FAC Conferences will talk about Emergency Management, that is why they approve grants from them. She wrote down to meet with the Emergency Management director, growth director and committee as soon as they can get a meeting because hurricane season is coming up. They have to have clarity because there are hazardous sites that they need to be aware of. Red Cross used to be over the emergency management program, then it went to the Sherriff's department, but they are still

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
February 7, 2023, Workshop

responsible. They need to schedule a meeting so they can know what is going on. She said the chairman will be in charge to sign off on everything.

Chair Nesmith asked how often does the committee meet? Ms. Whaley said at least annually. Chair Nesmith asked if there was something that the board did that precluded them from getting the information in earlier? Ms. Whaley said no.

Commissioner Green said if they are not impacted, then they are awarded some type of funding based on the tiers. He asked what can they use those funds for, if we were not affected? Ms. Whaley said we were not affected by hurricane Ian but we were included in the funds. It can cover any project on the element project list. Ms. Keeler said they can always add to the list.

Commissioner Hinson said he noticed they were able to receive funds for the EMS station. He asked if they ever contacted the town of Havana to figure out how they can partner with them.

Commissioner Green stepped out at 5:02 p.m.

Ms. Whaley said the town of Havana is always included in their LMS updates. They play a major part in it and they are always present at every annual meeting. They have a couple projects on the list and there are over 50 projects on the list currently. Commissioner Hinson asked if she has the list with her at the moment. Ms. Whaley said yes. He said he had a meeting with the town manager and he brought it up. He asked who determines where those fundings goes to? Ms. Whaley said those funds did not come from LMS money, that project was because the requirements said for it to be on the list. Ms. Keeler said all applications for grants are approved by the board. When the application was submitted, some decisions were made at DEO. The original application included 2.5/2.8, included Quincy EMS Rehab and rehabbing Havana EMS. when the agreement came to the county, they the put entire amount \$2.8 into the Quincy EMS project. The application approved in 2021 did include those two projects. The funding requested was not sufficient. Commissioner Hinson thanked her for the job she is doing in Gadsden County. He asked why they waited to the last second for this? This is where all the money is at. It is called the money bag. He asked if the chairman is responsible to make sure committee meets? He just had to throw that out there.

Commissioner Green returned at 5:07 p.m.

Chair Nesmith asked how the committee was formed? Ms. Whaley said she was voted in to be the chair. At every annual meeting they can vote. Chair Nesmith asked if the former chair of Board of County Commissioners known about the meetings? Ms. Whaley said Commissioner Holt has sat in meetings.

Mr. Dixon said they sat with Ms. Whaley and what was happening, she was caught in the middle with the County and the Sherriff. The prior people did not work with her. They surrounded her with everyone to hit all the deadlines. It is a torturous process. Chair Nesmith asked who completed the previous LMS plan? Ms. Whaley said they had management experts to help.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if the county does not have all dirt roads listed, does that impact the mitigation funds? Ms. Whaley said not through this plan but through any recovery funds they get from an event. That is why they make sure any maintenance on roads, dirt roads and public roads, to make sure documentation throughout the year are being kept on the roads. When they do file for reimbursement, they have documentation to be reimbursed.

Commissioner Holt said after COVID and Hurricane Michael, we definitely have a need for a hospital. Liberty County just got a lump sum of money for add on to their hospital.

Commissioner Hinson said if the area is located at the Sheriff's Department, they can find funding to refurbish the entire building. He said at one point, TCC owned the Sheriff's building, and now the board owns it. Since they own it, are they thinking about refurbishing that? Mr. Dixon said no, they are trying to get the new building built now. Commissioner Hinson said once they leave, it is too late. Also, once they leave the building, it is no longer a critical facility. He asked is it theirs now, or the Sheriff's? Mr. Dixon said emergency management was just law enforcement, now emergency management is more about hurricanes and heavy machinery. It is a logistical nightmare they are going through. There is an agreement between the Sheriff and the County about how emergency management should be run. Commissioner Hinson asked the board to go get their certification in emergency management class.

Chair Nesmith thanked Ms. Whaley for keeping them in the know. He said she has the boards full support.

Motion to Adjourn

**WITH NO FURTHER DISCUSSION TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, THE WORKSHOP WAS
ADJOURNED AT 5:30 P.M.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

KIMBLIN NESMITH, Chair

ATTEST:

NICOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FL ON FEBRUARY 8, 2023 AT 4:00
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS
HAD, VIZ:**

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

Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Nesmith welcomed everyone to the workshop at 4:06 p.m. He had a moment of silence for the invocation and proceeded with the pledge of the U.S. Flag.

Amendments and Approval of Agenda

There were no amendments.

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

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 February 8, 2023. 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 Nesmith read the above statement aloud.

Mimi Robinson, 111 Grove Rd, Animal Control –

Chair Nesmith read the speaker form aloud. Commissioner Green gave clarity on it.

General Business

1. Welcome

(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator)

Mr. Dixon welcomed everyone for the presentation on EMS. Chief Hood is director of Emergency Management Services. Chief Davis runs the EMS division and Chief Walker runs the fire division. They will walk through what they are experiencing now and what the outlook will be.

2. Presentation regarding Gadsden County Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

(Kris Hood, Chief of Emergency Medical Services)

Kris Hood presented the presentation on where they at, where they have been and where they want to go.

They were named provider of the year in 2022 by HCA.

He said the staff deserves all the credit. There are 40 full-time and 23 part-time employees. There are 28 employees that are dual certified.

He thanked the board for the wage increases they received. For the first time in 6 years, they are fully staffed.

They have TCC and Chipola students to do ride-alongs.

5 primary station locations:

Quincy (2)

Chattahoochee

Midway

Havana

They have 10,000 calls per year. He went over the short- and long-term goals. He gave credit to Allan Meeks and his staff. There are 11 total county departments.

ISO (Insurance Services Office) creates rating for fire departments and their surrounding communities. They update agreements appropriately. He started establishing a 1 report system. They want to ensure a minimum of 4 personnel respond to a fire call. They want to add a total of 12 career staff to GCES.

Commissioner Simpkins stepped out at 4:59 p.m.

Commissioner Simpkins returned at 5:02 p.m.

Equipment needs –

- Replace officers' response unit
- EMS Unit Replacement
- Additional Bunker gear to outfit current employees
- Continue to apply for grants to obtain additional fire response vehicles

Commissioner Green echoed Chair Nesmith and congratulated them on the recognition. He said they are one of the first counties to be recognized and that is definitely a positive and good recognition to receive. He asked who is responsible for writing the grants within their department? Chief Hood said EMS grants is done by him in coordination with the grant coordinator with the county and Chief Walker does the fire grants with the county department. Commissioner Green said he is hoping that someone in the county is working close with them to get more money. They talked about possibly doing some stipends for the volunteer firefighters. He asked if they get the safer grant, can it be used for volunteer firefighters? Chief Hood would have to do some research on volunteers.

Mr. Dixon said he hopes the safer grants will extend the paid service. They hope to utilize other funds for volunteers for stipends, education and bonuses. Commissioner Green asked if there are any major issues with the current billing company? He wanted to know why they are bidding out now. Chief Hood said their contract is up for renewal in August. They have not gone out to bid in 34 years. They want to ensure that they are getting the best bang for their

buck. Commissioner Green said hopefully once upgrades done to the Robertsville station, they can have a ceremony to involve the community to see the facility.

Commissioner Hinson said they talked about gas tax a few years ago. They were thinking about maybe lowering or increasing gas tax. The max is 6 cents, he asked where are they now? Mr. Dixon said 5 and 6 cents and they are not at the max. Commissioner Hinson said if they change the gas tax, the board has opportunity annually.

Commissioner Holt said it was a good presentation. She said she needs to look at some numbers on what it would cost to encourage volunteers to become certified. Mr. Dixon said they have been meeting with the local chiefs and the other cities to begin the process on how they can encourage volunteers to become certified. Commissioner Holt said they need to look at numbers to get paramedics and EMT's to be dual certified. She asked if the fire stations belong to the county? Chief Walker said the only building that is county owned is Robertsville, Greenshade Dogtown, Mt. Pleasant, Gretna and Sycamore. Commissioner Holt said they need to have reports from everyone. Chief Walker said they report to them quarterly. Commissioner Holt said for EMT's and paramedics, many don't go through school. She said municipalities is something to consider. They can look at funding that can tie to increase certifications. She said they need to market it after getting a plan. She also brought up the logistics of computer software. She asked if they are using the same software? Chief Walker said they are using the software provided by the Florida Fire Marshall office. Commissioner Holt asked how do they make sure 4 certified people are present at a fire call? Chief Walker said it is called the incident command and whoever is the higher-ranking officer in the fire department in charge of that scene will make sure that happens. Chief Walker said when ISO comes out, they look at the roster, pull the report, and they will make sure they have certified firefighters. Commissioner Holt said they need to look at gas taxes. Where that gas tax coming from, is from those areas that are selling gas. MSBU is district tax. That is something that could be used for other things.

Chair Nesmith said when they come up with avenues, it is all in the way they present it. He asked if MSBU is familiar to them? Mr. Dixon said it is Municipal Services Benefit Unit and the other one is the Municipal Service Taxing unit. He said the difference is how they are applied. Chair Nesmith asked if they are currently utilizing those current avenues for revenue? Mr. Dixon said no. Chair Nesmith asked if they are potential revenue generating sources? Mr. Dixon said yes. Chair Nesmith asked about the breakdown of the EMT/Firefighter salary. He asked if that is for one dual certified staff person earning \$15.50 an hour annually? Chief Hood said yes, for one person. Chair Nesmith asked with the safer grant that allows EMS to hire up to 12 persons, how would it impact that \$1,028,370.06? Because the safer grant is just for firefighters, but those individuals can be dual certified. Chief Hood said correct. Chair Nesmith said that may not be a cost to the general fund the first year. Chief Hood said the safer grant is tiered year per year.

Commissioner Simpkins said the presentation was awesome. What stood out to her was the emphasis on the staff willing and wanting to work in the culture they created. It speaks volume and is very important because a lot of times it is not about the money. So, she thanked them. She asked how the volunteer firefighter's equipment is paid for? Chief Walker said they

purchase their equipment by money funded by the county. He said some departments apply for grants. She said in regards to the paperwork in the reporting, do all of the chiefs meet? Chief Walker said they try to meet every quarter. Commissioner Simpkins said she does not stay within 1,000ft from a hydrant or water source. Chief Walker said ISO looks for a water system, like a swimming pool. If they can get 15 ft of a body of water, it would work. He said they have 3 dry hydrants, which they can connect to suction water to fill trucks. They don't like using it because it gets trash in the tanks. Commissioner Simpkins asked if the reporting affects the ISO rating, the way the report is written. Chief Walker said they make sure there are 4 certified firefighters. Chief Hood said it is to ensure they have a systematic something in place to make sure it is done right every time. Commissioner Simpkins said when they look at the calls, in Quincy, they are the only paid fire department. She asked if they have looked at working with them with their firefighters as it relates to staffing? Chief Walker said the City of Quincy fire department placed a guy at Robertsville and they put a stipend for them to go with firefighter and no one responded. Mr. Dixon said they have met and they will get back with them. They have to reassess their relationships to improve their relationships. If they reconstruct somethings, they can get out of that house and get into a building with the fired department. They can figure out how to help Havana build their station and to accommodate whatever their future relationship is. It makes no sense that they have two certified firefighters sitting across the stress in EMS trailer. They have the ability but they do not have the relationship that allows that. Commissioner Simpkins believes it is important to build relationships with municipalities. ISO ratings is affecting everyone and they need to work together to provide public health and safety to the citizens.

Chair Nesmith asked if they are all capable to write their individual grants? Chief Hood said yes. Chair Nesmith asked if there is a suggestion to them? Chief Walker said yes. Chair Nesmith said with the meetings, they can encourage them to do that. He asked Mr. Dixon if they have identified where they need fire hydrants and can they tie that to infrastructure? Mr. Dixon said yes, but it is not that simple.

Commissioner Green said they are having their community workshops and it would be great if they could have the team come out to start training for citizens who want to come. That way they can learn basic lifesaving skills as well.

Commissioner Holt asked when will they do ISO ratings? Chief Walker said the chiefs have to request them to come out.

Chair Nesmith had the volunteer chiefs introduce themselves. Lester Beach spoke from the Havana Fire Department. He is the chief of Havana for 12 months, and been in the department for almost 15 years. ISO has been the focal point for a lot of people. He said the insurance is going up but only 20% of the increase is related to ISO. Quincy is a 4 on ISO and he told them to ask the people of Quincy and see if their insurance has not gone up. He wants people to understand that is not the only impact in their increase. They talk about budgets and trying to supplement. He said one of the biggest ways to supplement is to pull resources from the areas needed. He said there is no recruiting and retention.

Mr. Dixon said they need to give the chiefs the opportunity to grind through this. They need to find a set of principles they can all work by. Chief Beach extended an offer to the board to attend the next chief meeting.

Commissioner Simpkins believes it is important to have a conversation and come together to have a plan. She said each area may have different needs but they need to come together to come up with a plan.

Commissioner Hinson said in the next meeting, could they let them know why there is a huge gap between the City of Quincy and all the other fire departments. Mr. Dixon said paid firefighters. They need to revisit the old set up and reallocate resources. Chief Beach said if they are supporting whatever department, they have to be listed on that roster. Mr. Dixon said it is not a new budget item for them. Commissioner Hinson said sometimes people do not accept what you have to say because of what has been reported in the paper. He said the goal is to include everybody in and not discourage people or make them feel uncomfortable. Chair Nesmith said it was very informative.

Commissioner Green stepped out at 6:00 p.m.

3. Presentation regarding Animal Control Services

(Allan Meeks, Facilities Manager)

Mr. Dixon said Allan Meeks was present to present the Animal Control presentation.

Allan Meeks, head of Animal Control, said he has been in this position for 3 and a half years. Animal Control is an effective enforcement and shelter management. The shelter opened in April 2001 and they have 32 kennels.

Commissioner Green returned at 6:04 p.m.

The business hours are 8am – 5pm, Monday-Friday. The fees were adopted by the board in 2007. In March 2022, they transported only 2 dogs. Since then, the county has transported 338 cats and dogs. That is a record number for animal control.

The County is serviced by three animal control officers required to take a 40-hour course. Mr. Meeks introduced the 3 employees, Willie Saucier, Jeff Carnely and Ricardo Jenkins. The Health Department will notify animal control about animal bites. They will locate the animal, they will need to determine if the dog has rabies and vaccination, if not, it will need to be quarantined for 10 days. They have only had one case of rabies in 27 years. The Humane society knows they cannot save all of the dogs, but they are starting to move forward. They are no longer euthanizing everything.

Attorney Knowles asked how she found that picture on the slideshow. She said she googled pet care.

Chair Nesmith said he has a speakers form from Mimi Robinson. Commissioner Green said she has left and has reached out to him several times in regards to this. Chair Nesmith read the

speaker form. Mr. Meeks said they look at the animals and they take all adoptable pets. They test them and treat them. They have to be spayed and neutered. It is a big deal.

Commissioner Green clarified that a dog bit her and they contacted animal control. They are concerned because there is an elderly lady and cannot get visitors because people are afraid of the dog roaming the street. They called animal control and left messages and she has not received a returned call. He sees they have listed the business hours and he asked if there is someone there during business hours that are answering the phones according to the business hours. Mr. Meeks said animal control phone number is 850-875-8658. Sometime last year, animal control, IT, and Mr. Dixon got together because if you ring that number, it is going to 3 phones, which is the 3 employees they have. Commissioner Green said he will relay the message to her as he understands her concern was the communication level. Mr. Meeks said she called in once on a county commission meeting and contacted the attorney. That was back in the fall. He said her complaint was about the dog biting her. They have to quarantine the animal and if the dog had rabies shots, the dog is still not considered dangerous unless it bites someone twice in 12 months. He said maybe they need to work on the ordinance and update them.

Commissioner Green said he lives in the city limits of Quincy and he asked if there is an ordinance or rule where they have neighbors with chickens and they roam the neighborhood. Mr. Meeks said that could fall under a nuisance animal and it can be addressed because it is a domestic animal. Commissioner Green said maybe if they give them some eggs it will be fine. Mr. Willie Saucier said for him to make sure the livestock is not zoned.

Commissioner Holt asked about the rounding of domestic animals when they are returned, is there a fee charge to the owner? Mr. Meeks said yes. Mr. Meeks said if it is listed on the fee charge, it will be charged. They do not charge by the hour. Commissioner Holt said that is why they need to look at the ordinance. She asked if there is a fee if trapping animals in other city limits. Mr. Meeks said they get 8 hours a week, if they go over, it is a \$35 pick-up charge. Commissioner Holt said she gets calls about no one showing up. She said for the leash law, it needs to be updated. People are not paying attention to that. There needs to be something with teeth in it. Mr. Meeks said if they pick them up, they write fines. Once they get to the third stage, it is not by the dog, it is for each occurrence. So, if they have multiple dogs, it can get quite expensive. She asked Attorney Knowles to see if there is a law to defend themselves. He said he was not aware, so she asked him to put it in writing and send it to them. She commends animal control employees. Mr. Meeks said they have an agreement with Midway. They have had them on sight at times and they give support to animal control.

Commissioner Hinson talked about livestock. He said he was on planning and zoning and they had a miniature horse, the issue was if they could keep it. They had a debate for months.

Commissioner Green said this was a good meeting. Everything is taken seriously but this laughter was good.

Motion to Adjourn

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
February 8, 2023, Workshop

**WITH NO FURTHER DISCUSSION TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR
NESMITH ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 6:36 P.M.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

KIMBLIN NESMITH, Chair

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT A WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FL ON FEBRUARY 9, 2023 AT 4:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

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

Charlie D Frost, Sr., District 4
Karema D. Dudley, District 5
Freida Bass-Prieto, District 4
Steve Scott, Vice Chairman, District 2
Ronte R. Harris, District 3
Cathy Johnson, District 1
Deborah Minnis, Attorney
Keith A. Dowdell, District 1
Elijah Key, Superintendent
Rob Nixon, City Manager
Leroy McMillan, District 3
Angela Sapp, District 2
Gary Roberts, Attorney
Anessa Candidate, District 5

Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Nesmith welcomed everyone to the workshop at 4:10 p.m. He thanked the chairman of the school board, Mr. McMillan. He also thanked Vice Chair Commissioner Hinson and Mr. Scott. Chair Nesmith said he asked Mr. Scott about the last meeting with the school board and the county, Mr. Scott mentioned to him that whatever was discussed, there was no follow up. Commissioner Nesmith said they are here for a purpose and that is to find whatever their goals are and to develop a common theme.

Mr. McMillan proceeded with the invocation. Then, everyone proceeded with the Pledge of Allegiance of the U.S. Flag.

Amendments and Approval of Agenda

Chair Nesmith asked for any amendments. There were none.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

Citizens Requesting to be Heard on Non-Agenda Items (3-minute limit)

The Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners welcomes and encourages public participation at all meetings of the Board. Citizens are free to speak for up to three (3) minutes on non-agenda items. Public comments and participation is also encouraged for items on the agenda.

Additionally, if you are unable to attend a meeting in person, comments from the Public can also be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until noon on the date of the meeting. Citizens are further encouraged to participate via Zoom using the credentials on the County's website. The meetings are also broadcast live on the Board's Facebook page. 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 aloud.

General Business

1. Welcome

(Kimblin E. NeSmith, Chairman, Board of County Commissioners)

(Keith Dowdell, Chairman, City of Quincy)

(Leroy McMillan, Chairman, Gadsden County School Board)

Chair Nesmith asked everyone to introduce themselves. They went around the room to introduce themselves.

Chair Nesmith said they may not have made enough progress, but now they are going into the bicentennial this year. They are here to come up with a plan to assist the school district and the City of Quincy. They have the commitment of the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners to assist in any way.

Commissioner Dowdell said when he first thought about this meeting, he thought about the constitution saying that "we the people coming together as one". They tried this before in the past, and now they are coming back together. It is a perfect time to do things for the citizens of the county. He thanked who came up with the idea. He wants them to work together and put bitterness out the door and take care of business.

Chair Nesmith said Mr. McMillan initiated the conversation with the County in the middle of last year. He said unity is a powerful tool.

Commissioner Simpkins entered at 4:24 p.m.

Mr. McMillan said he was born and raised in Gadsden County. He wanted to come back home to do what he can to help the young kids in Gadsden County. He said they have to understand that without them having a school system that is representative of a system that is educating kids, they have to come together and ensure that the children have the very best. He said our kids are our future.

Mr. Dixon introduced the manager and the superintendent. They have a relationship established behind the scenes. He said at the basis of everything they attempt to do, begins and ends at the school district. It is a self-perpetuating system. He said that Lizzo said "everybody wants to be great, 'til they got to be great". Every community doing great has a great school district. East Gadsden was built someplace else, and they didn't think they were losing anything, but the first thing they lost was football. They have to see what is happening together.

Commissioner Harris, Commissioner Simpkins and Commissioner Candidate introduced themselves.

Superintendent Keys said they need to work together to improve the county as a whole.

He said from the economic stand point, they need to make the schools the model schools what they need to be in order to move Gadsden County forward. He said he always says that “we did not just get here; we have been having these issues a long time”. It is going to take everyone working together. It is going to take getting the educators back in Gadsden County that have fled to other places.

Mr. Keys said the county is working on affordable housing; they need to have a place where teachers can stay and they are not living in Leon County. They will continue to move the salary scale to keep good teachers here. Without good educators, it is going to be hard to move the needle. Graduation rates start in elementary school. They can not continue to retain. Kids are sometimes 2 years behind before they get to middle school. They have already created dropouts; they have to change that narrative. He went over the Vision from the PowerPoint and the mission.

He said enrollment has been decreasing. The Gadsden County School district budget shows that close to \$3 million that went to private schools for students that are getting vouchers. The legislatures are currently planning to expand that even more. If they do that, hold the private schools accountable the same way. They County population has also decreased. They must come together to make it work and to get economic growth. They do not want Gadsden County at the bottom for the wrong reasons, in order to change that, they must come together. They need to improve the learning environment.

They do not have a lot of money in the Gadsden County school systems to put into renovations. What will work is a half-set sales tax. Leon County is improving their schools by the half-set sales tax and making renovations. Many schools in Gadsden County were built more than 60 years ago. He said they have the support from the City of Quincy and the County Commission to build a new school in Quincy. They were pushed with time and they decided where is the best place to put a school. There was a need because of how old the schools were. He said the state said if it is going to cost more to renovate a school, they will tell you to build one. It will be a K-8 school. There a lot of issues at the schools that they cannot deny but they cannot keep patching. They cannot keep schools open just because they graduated from there. They pay a nice bill to the City of Quincy for electricity. The schools are not efficient. They do not want to leave a carbon footprint. The committee agreed to constructing one new school. He said how are they going to pay for it, they asked the state for money. George W. Monroe, James A. Shanks, GEMs and Steward Street are all going to the new school. It is going to cost \$68 million. They want to make sure they don't fall short. They have had conversations about the King St. pool to make sure it happens. They will build on Shanks location to keep the school in the city of Quincy not the outskirts. Programs will ensure about 1,600 kids will be housed with technology, CTE programs. They want to ensure kids will follow a pathway up to high school. The state did approve money to renovate the gym. It will be a two-story building with grade levels separated, so that safety is of utmost importance. He asked if there were any questions?

Commissioner Holt asked what will happen with the front of the school. Superintendent Keys said it will be raised and made into a parking lot.

Commissioner Prieto asked what will happen with the students who currently attend Shanks when they raise it. Mr. Keys said students have to be moved from building 16. They are working with a company that have built buildings that are on site to keep the students safe. They may have to move some students to other schools to ensure that they have no issues. Commissioner Prieto said with the noise factor, it is impossible to learn anything. Mr. Keys said the gym, the chorus room, the band room, and building 16 all have to become empty. They will be moving kids to the front and east side of the campus. Commissioner Prieto asked what is the estimated construction time? Mr. Keys said about 2 years. If they get funding this year, it may be 2025-2026, to be completed. Mr. Keys said the start would be in the summer.

Commissioner Nesmith asked where are they on funding? Mr. Keys said the state has budgeted \$68 million for this project; however, the cost of materials may be more so it may be more money to cover the inflation and other things. Commissioner Nesmith asked what does he need from the Board of County Commissioners? Mr. Keys said they are ranked #2, normally, they always rank #1 person. The governor has funded all districts in the past. Due to the abundance of money, they are looking to fund all the districts. He said he needs them to encourage Senator Simon and Representative Franklin to bring in additional money to fund the school. He said they may have to cut costs and the County may have to clear an area. They are trying to look at some soft costs as well. Commissioner Nesmith does not want him to cut costs. They want a state-of-the-art school. Mr. Keys said then it is calling the legislatures. Mr. Keys said they did not want to put anything else on the table that would jeopardize the school. This is their priority.

Commissioner Holt asked if they do not have active open CDBG grants open, then they can show a 15 job increase, and it is a funding mechanism they can apply for CDBG. The first paycheck pays \$750,000 dollars. She said they can usually apply for sewer money. They do have to document those jobs. She asked if they have asked for any money from the federal government? Mr. Keys said they have not. Commissioner Holt said that is a good possibility because they have a new congressman. They are already on their committees. They need to present the project as if may not get funding from the state. She put down \$100 million because of cost increases. There are other funding mechanisms.

Commissioner Prieto asked who are the other schools competing with? Mr. Keys said Putnam and Glades County. Commissioner Prieto asked if there is any research that new schools help make scores better. Mr. Keys said any environment is going to help, but going back to what he said, it is going to be teachers. They have good teachers in some of the schools but they need more. Commissioner Prieto said there is existing sewer and water, how much would have to be modified? Mr. McMillan said he asked for this meeting to collaborate. So that they can see how can they help. They are going to build this state-of-the-art school. No study has been done that shows putting a child in a new school is going to make them be smarter. With the schools that we have now, our kids deserve better. They will have to totally revamp King Street. The present conditions cannot handle the traffic. They will probably use the same amount of water, but all of that will have to be moved. They will move the electrical stuff according to code. They need to start thinking about the infrastructure as far as providing utilities to the new school.

Commissioner Green presented himself and said he is glad to see this collaboration. He has been out working but he knows they can get this accomplished together.

Commissioner Grant Sapp said there is a need for new schools. She sees the need for new schools. They have not done a study about how schools affect children. However, if a child sees mold and mildew, that child will not come compared to Havana Magnet School. She said good teachers matter. They will bring a good viable school. Quincy is the seed in Gadsden County.

Commissioner Dudley gave a personnel account on how students need good air conditioning in their classrooms. They need to get students out of these old schools. She said behavior is an issue and what do they have in the community they can get involved in?

Mr. Dixon said they need to see it not as an indictment but an opportunity. They can change what happens tomorrow. They have to do it big and fast. Mr. Keys said they asked for an additional \$50 million. This is a 5-year program. Stability becomes important. No matter who is at the table, the mission remains the same. They have to improve the district in the meantime. They need money for programming and personnel. They need to expand the budget, not only at the state level but on the federal level. They have good contacts that can be used. They need to make their ask bigger.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
February 9th, 2023, Workshop

Commissioner Prieto said she heard 2025 now she heard 2028. Mr. Keys said there is a 2–3-year building process. He said it is not a 5-year project. She asked if they are asking for money other than for the new school to help them address the low reading scores and other issues. She said she does not believe it is about the building, it is about the teachers. She is not discounting a new school, but she wants to know how they are addressing the issues in her opinion. They are losing students. Mr. Keys said the scores have not come out. Mr. Keys agreed that it comes to teachers. There was a \$5,000 bonus for teachers and \$2,500 for other schools. If they had high VAM scores, they could have earned an additional \$1,500. They have teachers this year that are leaving with \$12,500 and \$15,000. This year they are doing the same thing again. They are getting ready to put more money into recruitment and retention. They are looking at the possibilities. Commissioner Prieto asked if there is a multiyear funding source? She asked what are they doing to encourage parents to be more involved? Mr. Keys said they asked the federal government but when it comes to more funding, they have asked for over \$100,000,000 for the new school. Commissioner Prieto asked about the increase in salaries and if they are effective in retention or if they need another cycle? Mr. Keys said most teachers left when the salary was \$38,000. Gadsden county is at \$45,000, Leon County was at \$43 and changed to \$47,000. They need to come up again.

Mr. McMillan said the architects have told them if they break ground in July, there is a strong possibility that in August of 2025, our kids will go to school at the new school. They need to be on the move.

Mr. Keys said they had 3 students from Gadsden County is a part of the Future Builders of America that went to Las Vegas to compete in the national building association conference and placed #2 in the entire country. They need to be celebrating those kids.

Mr. Dixon reminded the BOCC that they worked in the summer program.

Commissioner Simpkins agrees that we need a school. She knows it is a legislative priority. Her goal was for them to collaborate as a county. They need to discuss what happens with the students when they leave the school. As a community, what can we do as a county in order to change the trajectory of the kids? She takes it personal when talking about the teachers. Teachers work with what they are given. They do not choose the students. They have to come together and assist the school board to make sure they look at the CDBG grant. They have to look beyond that and at what they can do to provide to the students after 3:00 p.m. and what programs they can put in place. She said we have the highest crime rates in state of Florida. They need to have a plan for those students.

Mr. Keys said they have one of the highest percentage of teachers that are out of field. Some are temporary certified. Students are coming to the schools disadvantaged and have teachers disadvantaged. In order to move the county, they have to get in field certified teachers to close the gap early.

Commissioner Green said they need to work together on all levels. There are other ways they can start their own boys and girls club without utilizing the Boys and Girls Club. It is not about the boards; it is about the children. The collaboration needs to happen on a more consistent basis. It does not take a mega county to see a positive transformation. People are watching the negative energy; they will not come to us if they are not working together. It has to stop if they want to move forward.

Mr. Nixon is 100 percent behind this project. What do they need to do? They need to ask for that money to maintain it. They need a sense of urgency in the implementation plan. They need to follow the motto and have half percent sales tax. The citizens will have to bite the bullet and invest in ourselves.

Commissioner Holt asked how can they model themselves after someone who has already done it. They need to get the appropriations list and get their lobbying skills up. They have a disadvantaged population. If they do not get to Tallahassee, they will miss the money.

Commissioner Candidate thanked everyone. She said a 21st century school is their end goal but they need to start exposing kids to the program spaces. 3-5 years will be here fast. There are a lot of foundation grants available. Mr. Keys said students are already being exposed, they are trying to move it down to the elementary level.

Commissioner Harris supports the new school. He said the pool is not an issue. He wants to talk to everyone. He shared his interest for what they do with the citizens money. If houses and jobs are here, the City of Quincy is examining every contract they do business with. They will support them. They need to look at banking services. People cannot go to a bank to secure a mortgage. If they do not have a banking institution in this community that is willing to pour back into the community, then they are just turning wheels. It will not happen if the opportunity is not made available. They need to have institutions that are going to pour back into the community. He is on a mission in 2023 that the people's money will not sit in a bank that will not provide them equitable opportunity. They have to play hard ball.

Commissioner Dowdell said by any means necessary they will help. The City of Quincy is with them. They are waiting on him to say what they need to do. He said in Tallahassee, the game is republican. They have to play the republican game. They have to mingle with them. The republican ideology is public and charter schools. They need to come up with their own charter school district. If they just add the name "charter", it will help. It is now or never.

Commissioner Prieto wants to see the plan out of this meeting. She asked about a traffic study and it has not been done. She wants them to put the plan in writing. Commissioner Nesmith will ask if they need to start meeting. They will start now. They can form a committee where they can start meeting on regular basis.

Mr. Dixon said they will create a plan. They will make sure all the trains are moving at the same time. Mr. Harris said if there is a workshop setting, if already discussed so that they know what to expect. They need a step-by-step plan. Chair Nesmith said her point is received.

Mr. Dixon said it is not about red or blue it is about green.

2. **Discussion of Legislative Priorities**
(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator)
3. **Discussion of Future Partnerships**
(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator)
4. **Discussion of General Government Business**
(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator)

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
February 9th, 2023, Workshop

Motion to Adjourn

WITH NO FURTHER DISCUSSION TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, COMMISSIONER NESMITH
ADJOURNED THE WORKSHOP AT 6:11 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

KIMBLIN NESMITH, Chair

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A WORKSHOP/MEETING OF THE
PLANNING COMMISSION HELD IN AND
FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FL ON
FEBRUARY 16, 2023 AT 5:30 P.M., THE
FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD,
VIZ:**

Present: Rev. Dr. Joe Parramore, Chair, District 5
Eugene Sherman III, District 1
Tracey Stallworth, District 2
John Youman, District 2
Mark Moore, District 3
Wayne Williams, District 3
Charles Roberts, At Large
Karema Dudley, School Board Representative

Staff Present: Justin Stiell, Planning and Zoning Director
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Crystal Jimenez, Deputy Clerk

Not Present: William Chukes, District 1
Lori Bouie, Vice-Chair, District 5

WORKSHOP (5:30 p.m.)

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Parramore welcomed everyone to the workshop at 5:30 pm. They proceeded with the Pledge of the U.S Flag.

The commissioners went around the room to introduce themselves.

2. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS – Roll Call for Workshop

Rev. Dr. Joe Parramore, Chair, District 5	PRESENT
Eugene Sherman III, District 1	PRESENT
Tracey Stallworth, District 2	PRESENT
John Youman, District 2	PRESENT
Mark Moore, District 3	PRESENT
Wayne Williams, District 3	PRESENT
Charles Roberts, At Large	PRESENT
Karema Dudley, School Board Representative	PRESENT

2. Planning Commission and Staff discussion of items to be heard during Public Hearings portion of the Regular Meeting (see below).

Justin Stiell said Attorney Knowles will explain the difference between the both hearings. They have provided copies of the comprehensive plan with policies for them to take home.

Attorney Knowles went over the difference of quasi-judicial and legislative hearings. Quasi-judicial make a decision based on evidence. They will be able to be heard, usually there is a time limit on their comments, but they need to give them more time. That applies for all parties. They will all be sworn in by the deputy clerk.

A legislative hearing will have less to do with the applicant's case. They can not like something in a particular area.

Commissioner Sherman asked about the court reporter and if they have their own minutes taken. Attorney Knowles said deputy Clerk, Mrs. Jimenez takes the minutes. Those are just minutes as an opposed to a transcription. So, if they have a court reporter, they will need to make sure all comments are on the record. Commissioner Sherman said should there be a difference between minutes and transcription? Does one take precedent over the other? Attorney Knowles said the transcription could be used in court. If the recorder went off, they could go back to the video. Quasi-judicial will be a little more slowly. Attorney Knowles also talked about conflicts of interests. Contact with an applicant could create a conflict. People will contact to discuss issues. If someone says anything about their quasi-judicial, state that during the meeting.

Chair Parramore said when it comes to those conflicts, at what point would one have to abstain from a vote on an issue? This is based on the relationship with the applicant. Attorney Knowles said it would be based on their best judgement. They need to know if they can fairly evaluate. It is a large board, so if there is a large amount, they may not be getting a full opinion.

Chair Parramore asked if it applies to just the vote or the entire hearing. Attorney Knowles said both, because they don't want to influence at all. They can vote however they like, but the issue is swaying board members based on comments. If you do recuse, get a form to turn in.

Commissioner Youmans asked if they didn't announce that they had a conversation with the person, what would happen? Attorney Knowles said it is about best practices, it is not something that is written in stone. It is not required but it is about best practices. It is about protecting yourself and the county.

Commissioner Moore asked if he was talking about when they have witness and their time limit? Attorney Knowles said it is an opportunity to be heard. The rules of evidence are more relaxed, can take hear say. At a certain point they will end the conversation, just give them an opportunity to present their evidence.

Chair Parramore said in quasi-judicial, they never use a clock. They need to get all of the information they need to make a decision. Attorney Knowles said if it goes off the rails, they can try and reel it back in.

Mr. Stiell added that if they vote for denial, they need to state the reason of denial. Chair Paramore concluded the workshop at 5:53 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING (6:00 p.m.)

4. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS – Roll Call for Regular Meeting

Chair Parramore welcomed everyone to the meeting at 6:00 pm.

[Virtual Meeting Access Details]

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. Chair Parramore read the above statement aloud.

He then proceeded with the Pledge of Allegiance of the U.S. Flag.

Roll call was completed:

Rev. Dr. Joe Parramore, Chair, District 5	PRESENT
Eugene Sherman III, District 1	PRESENT
Tracey Stallworth, District 2	PRESENT
John Youman, District 2	PRESENT
Mark Moore, District 3	PRESENT
Wayne Williams, District 3	PRESENT
Charles Roberts, At Large	PRESENT
Karema Dudley, School Board Representative	PRESENT

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Paramore asked for changes of the agenda. He stated that staff pulled item #9. There were no other changes.

COMMISSIONER YOUMAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AMENDED AGENDA AND COMMISSIONER STALLWORTH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 8-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Rev. Dr. Joe Parramore, Chair, District 5	YES
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Eugene Sherman III, District 1	YES
Tracey Stallworth, District 2	YES
John Youman, District 2	YES
Mark Moore, District 3	YES
Wayne Williams, District 3	YES
Charles Roberts, At Large	YES
Karema Dudley, School Board Representative	YES

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 15, 2022, January 12, 2023 ITEM 6
COMMISSIONER YOUMAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 8-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Rev. Dr. Joe Parramore, Chair, District 5	YES
Eugene Sherman III, District 1	YES
Tracey Stallworth, District 2	YES
John Youman, District 2	YES
Mark Moore, District 3	YES
Wayne Williams, District 3	YES
Charles Roberts, At Large	YES
Karema Dudley, School Board Representative	YES

COMMISSIONER SHERMAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND COMMISSIONER DUDLEY MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 8-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Rev. Dr. Joe Parramore, Chair, District 5
Eugene Sherman III, District 1
Tracey Stallworth, District 2
John Youman, District 2
Mark Moore, District 3
Wayne Williams, District 3
Charles Roberts, At Large
Karema Dudley, School Board Representative

7. DISCLOSURES AND DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT
Chair Paramore asked if there were any disclosures and declarations of conflict? There were none.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

8. Havana Learning Center Conceptual/Preliminary Site Plan (SP 2022-03) (Quasi-Judicial) - Consideration of a conceptual/preliminary site plan to construct a classroom building and a gymnasium to an existing school facility on a 7.72 acre parcel located at 2434 Kemp Road, Havana (Parcel ID 2-25-3N-2W-0000-00440-0100). ITEM 8
Chair Parramore presented the above item.

Justin Stiell was sworn in by the deputy clerk. He said the Havana Learning Center is being represented by Carmen Greene. It was approved by the planning commission in October of 2019. He went over the agenda request.

Commissioner Dudley stepped out at 6:08 pm

Commissioner Dudley returned at 6:08 pm

Commissioner Roberts had a question on the review committee, development order, and asked if these are saying that these things have to be done prior to? Mr. Stiell said yes. Commissioner Roberts asked what are they voting on? Mr. Stiell said they are voting on consideration of approval or denial of the application. If they vote to approve as staff has recommended, then they would say they approve this, but before they can get the final development order, they need to meet these standards and provide the documentation. Commissioner Roberts second question is on the new permit requested. Mr. Stiell said for them to read on page 35.

Conditions listed under option 1.

Commissioner Sherman said with the conditions listed, what entity will ensure the conditions are on that shall they move forward? Mr. Stiell said if they recommend approval, the Board of County Commissioners will have the final vote. If they approve, then they would send a letter that they need to have to met all the requirements before giving approval for their application. After providing that, they can apply for a final site plan review, then it will be staff level reviewing and making all the fine details, then they will get their final development order. Commissioner Sherman asked should there be non-compliance with one or more of these stipulations, what are the actions or consequences? Mr. Stiell said if they don't meet the recommendations, the staff cannot approve additional development.

Commissioner Youman said from what he sees listed, he recommends they approve this applicant and that all requirements are met.

Chair Parramore said he is assuming that the original land use amendment had to be submitted to DEO? Mr. Stiell said correct. Chair Parramore asked if they have that approval from DEO? Mr. Stiell said he has not seen that but yes, the land use has been changed on their future land use. Chair Parramore asked about the stormwater management and the well issue. He asked if they have any information from DOH as to what they are looking for in terms of the management of stormwater and then the expanded use of well water? Mr. Stiell said for stormwater, the requirement is that for 72 hours, the stormwater on site be treating in a stormwater facility. Also required by the Gadsden County land development code. For the well, there is a limit on the number of sizes. Mr. Stiell said he does not have the number of people by DOH standards. That is a state permit that they wouldn't have any say on or have any jurisdiction over. Chair Parramore said for the stormwater pond, in the land use code, there are ordinances

requiring it to be secured by fencing for protected of public safety. Mr. Stiell said depending on the design of the stormwater pond, it could require fencing, depending on how deep it is. Chair Paramore said his concern is that it is a school that needs to be considered as a requirement. He asked if it is not specifically required in this case? Mr. Stiell said he understands. He asked if he would like to add that as an addition.

Commissioner Stallworth said he has conducted business with the applicant but that does not sway his decision.

Commissioner Moore asked if a permit has been received from the Department of Health about the well? He is particularly concerned about septic tank issue. Mr. Stiell said based on the comments of the Department of Health, it does not appear that has happened. However, he is not sure what has happened between the time the comments were received and today.

Chair Parramore said to be clear, before a commencement order is issued, that DOH issue has to be satisfied? Mr. Stiell said that is correct.

Commissioner Sherman asked if there are any time elements that would bring this issue to them today versus a later time with some of these items being addressed? Mr. Stiell asked with it coming back to them? Commissioner Sherman said yes. Mr. Stiell said it would stop progress, if they don't have approval, then there would be no need for them to move forward. Everything is in limbo until they know from the Board of County Commissioners.

Carmen Greene c/o Magnolia Eng., 1150 E. Tennessee St. Tallahassee, FL 32308 – Havana Learning Center: 850-385-0203

She thanked the board to be able to speak. She gave more background on the school. She was not involved in the first part of it, but there was the rezoning in 2019. It was rezoned as a special exception use. When they started the second process, there was a different director, they had a pre-application meeting with him. They discussed they would have to go through the special exception use again. She advised them if they have to go through that every time they make an addition, go through everything within a timeframe. They went ahead and applied on that basis. The school is a private school, it serves students that may not fit in mainstream schools, it got a lot of support at the first go around. They are providing a valuable community service. There were about 60 student enrollments to begin with and since she started, the enrollment has dropped at about 42 students. She said 100 students is their maximum projection. One of the things requested is a traffic study on the agenda. She pointed out that there is no traffic data for the estimated 15 employees and no AM peak hour data for the 100 students were provided. The traffic data is based on ITE studies that are done on an independent variable. It is number of trips vs students. The number of trips recorded is not just for students, it is for everybody. That is just the independent variable. When she looked at the current FDOT level of service standards, it looked like it was going to be a tremendous traffic impact, even with 100 students. They just became aware of those

comments this week. They would like the opportunity to work with staff and see if the traffic study is really needed. They want to comply with all reasonable provisions of the code, but they do not want to put a burden on the school.

She mentioned sidewalks and said this is a rural area. They want to see if they are really warranted. There is a steep ditch and they can provide an easement. Will it serve any purpose? She knows they want to provide buffering and she noted that the owner of the school is the residents to the west. What is reasonable in terms of buffering? She said another thing mentioned is the Talquin easement and that the signage be removed. The sign that is being referred to is fiber optic cable markers and the school can not relocate those. For the well and septic, they will get with DOH and get that taken care of. Fencing is not required if slopes of 4 in 1 or less ft. The southern half of the property, there is an existing fence. They can put existing fence to address it. The kids don't go on that portion of the property, it is fenced off. The time urgency is that they missed one school year, if they don't keep things moving. They are requesting a little bit of flexibility to work with staff to determine what they need to do to bring this school in compliance with the code. She asked if there were any questions? She said the stormwater will go through the water management district.

Chair Paramore said the back of the property joins some woodland area and a pond. Has there been any environmental impact study done and where is the retention pond planning on being placed in relation to that back corner of the property? Ms. Greene went up to the Dias to show Chair Paramore the layout.

Commissioner Roberts asked in the research of the traffic study, was there consideration if the students will be on a bus or a van? She said they do have a bus. He asked if each student will provide their own transportation or will they provide it? She said the number they used was out of the ITE manual. It is studies on private schools k-12 and using the bus will probably reduce the traffic.

Commissioner Williams asked who provides security for the school? She said they have cameras but is not sure because they typically do not look at security. She will give them a response as part of their response to give on comments.

Commissioner Moore said the road in front of the school is a rural road, just a ditch, he asked how far is it or is it just a ditch? Ms. Greene said the closest sidewalk is on the westside of the middle school. There is no infrastructure on that road. She said only ditch and electric. He said having to do with private schools, he understands the concern. Chair Parramore thanked Ms. Green.

Chair Parramore referred the commissioners to page 6 and 7 of the package to see the options. He entertained a motion.

Commissioner Youman motioned to give the applicant approval of their application and when these items are approved, it comes back to the planning

department. Chair Parramore said there is a motion on option 1. Commissioner Williams second the motion.

Commissioner Moore asked if that recommendation they made be where they can give their staff the authority? He does not think they should make an incumbent upon a private school to put public infrastructure where there has never been any because it may open up a whole pandora's box of issues. He is concerned about putting those sidewalks in that tie into curbs that do not exist. He asked if they can make some kind of recommendation there?

Commissioner Roberts said on that note, on that road, the drop-off is about 6 to 8 ft. So, he does not know where they are going to put sidewalks to go to the school. That is going to cost them a lot of money. Someone needs to go look at that.

A roll call was done on the motion:

Rev. Dr. Joe Parramore, Chair, District 5	NO
Eugene Sherman III, District 1	NO
Tracey Stallworth, District 2	YES
John Youman, District 2	YES
Mark Moore, District 3	NO
Wayne Williams, District 3	YES
Charles Roberts, At Large	YES
Karema Dudley, School Board Representative	NO

The motion fails due to a tie. Now the chair entertained another round of motions.

Chair Paramore made the motion to recommend option 3, discretion of the planning commission referring it back to staff to discuss with the applicant, the traffic study issues, mediate the sidewalk issues, and get clarity from Talquin on the fiber optic cable markers that exist and then bring it back before this commission. Commissioner Moore second the motion.

Rev. Dr. Joe Parramore, Chair, District 5	YES
Eugene Sherman III, District 1	YES
Tracey Stallworth, District 2	YES
John Youman, District 2	YES
Mark Moore, District 3	YES
Wayne Williams, District 3	YES
Charles Roberts, At Large	YES
Karema Dudley, School Board Representative	YES

The motion carries 8-0.

9. *Havana RV Park Conceptual/Preliminary Site Plan (SP 2022-04) (Quasi-Judicial) - Consideration of a conceptual/preliminary site plan to construct a recreational vehicle park on a 6 acre parcel located west of U.S. 27 (FL-GA Hwy), south of Bush Street, and east*

of the FL Gulf & Atlantic Railroad line (Parcel ID 2-22-3N-2W-0160-00001-0120). - ITEM WILL BE PULLED.

10. 205 Glade Road, Peavy Small Scale Future Land Use Amendment (SSPA 2023-01) (Legislative) – Consideration of a of transmittal to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity of a Comprehensive Plan Small Scale Future Land Use Map (FLUM) amendment to change the future land use from Commercial to Agriculture 1 on a 16.72 acre parcel located at 205 Glade Road, Havana (Parcel ID 2-14-3N-2W-0000-00243-0300). ITEM 10

Chair Paramore presented the above item.

Mr. Stiell presented item #10 as it is shown on the agenda request. Commercial feature land use does not allow for any new residential development. So, in order for this to go forward, they need to complete a future land use map amendment. Staff's recommendation is for approval of the Peavy Small Scale Comprehensive Plan Land Use Map amendment.

Commissioner Roberts said he hates the term amendment because when you amend it, it makes it open for everybody, instead of saying exception to policy. It gives anybody a reason why they would approve or disapprove this for this usage. When you say amendment, you change an entire rule, and now it is for everyone. If they change the language to exception of policy then they will give a reason to say yes you can do this because of these criteria. He has been saying it for 3 years asking to change that because if you amend it, it is now for everybody.

Commissioner Moore asked if that assessment is correct? Mr. Stiell said the future land use map is what they sent to the state that guides growth. The area they are looking to build on is a commercial, which has zero residential development anticipated for that at this point in time. The way that Florida Statute requires the code to be written, in future land use, they are not allowed to have any residential units, when that policy was written. There wouldn't be a way to do an exception to the rule because that will be against Florida Statute and what has been approved by the Department of Economic Opportunity. Commissioner Roberts asked how do they fix that because if they amend, it would change the rule? Attorney Knowles said this is small scale, so they will change the use of that parcel not the entire rule. If they change the entire rule, it would change the land development code, then it would require an ordinance change. They are only making the change for this particular applicant at this particular site. A large scale would be different. They are not changing the rule in the book for this applicant. Commissioner Moore asked if they make this amendment for this small scale change, does it just affect that property or a section? Mr. Stiell said it is just this particular parcel. Attorney Knowles said if a neighbor wanted to do same, would have to do the same process.

Chair Paramore asked if the applicant plans on keeping the property continuous, or separating it into two parcels? Mr. Stiell said yes to both, the parcel will be continuous.

They have an 11.05-acre parcel and a 5.67-acre parcel that are continuous, but before doing the lot split, they need the future land use be amended so that they can identify this as a residential structure. Otherwise, it would have to be a major subdivision based on it being commercial.

Chair Parramore asked Ms. Steele if there was anyone that requested to speak online? There was no response.

COMMISSIONER SHERMAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER DUDLEY MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 8-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Rev. Dr. Joe Parramore, Chair, District 5	YES
Eugene Sherman III, District 1	YES
Tracey Stallworth, District 2	YES
John Youman, District 2	YES
Mark Moore, District 3	YES
Wayne Williams, District 3	YES
Charles Roberts, At Large	YES
Karema Dudley, School Board Representative	YES

GENERAL BUSINESS

11. TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Chair Paramore said he failed to comply with the request of last months meeting. He requested that their next immediate workshop be on sunshine law and ethics. For reference, he was a part of a workshop with the city of Tallahassee on ethics. He wants to see if they can come spend an hour with them. The presentation was phenomenal. Mr. Stiell asked Chair Parramore to send him the information. He said they will have a joint workshop with the Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners to have the same training.

Mr. Stiell said they discussed some training opportunities and they did not vote on what was presented. He said he did not have it with him. They will need to come back to that.

12. PLANNING DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Mr. Stiell said they have a new staff member, Amy, who is the planning permit tech. She just started. The Board of County Commissioners requested a meeting for a workshop on the comprehensive plan land development code about 2 weeks ago. He said the discussion was really good, and they will look into bringing that to the Planning Commission at a future meeting.

13. PLANNING COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Roberts said he ran into this problem before so he read the definition of an amendment and the definition of exception of policy.

Attorney Knowles said that is the term the legislature uses. He said he hears his concern but for the sake of ease, and it's a small-scale amendment, they are not changing the actual ordinance. There is process they have to go through. They could try and change it but it could create problems. Commissioner Roberts will go to session to let them know.

Chair Paramore said there are ways to go about getting that change.

Mr. Stiell said Attorney Knowles addressed what he was going to say. He said 1633177 identifies what a future land use map amendment is and this is only for future land use map, it does not change any of the policies in Gadsden County. He understands it more as a variance.

14. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING
WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR PARRAMORE
ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 7:06 P.M.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is March 16, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

JOE PARRAMORE, Chair

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

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

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

Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance

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

Amendments and Approval of Agenda

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

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

Citizens Requesting to be Heard on Non-Agenda Items (3-minute limit)

Anyone wishing to speak on agenda items or non-agenda items should schedule or notify the County Administrator's Office before attending the meeting and will be asked to follow the Gadsden County Public Meetings Citizens Access Guidelines. Also, Public comment for Commission meetings can be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsgdencountyfl.gov until noon on February 20, 2023. Comments submitted after the deadline, but prior to the meeting, will be added to the official record; however, the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting.

Chair Nesmith read the above statement aloud.

Commissioner Green arrived at 4:06 pm.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Welcome

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

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

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

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

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

Commissioner Hinson arrived at 4:13 pm.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

There were further comments made by Commissioner Holt. To hear all the comments, please see the video for this meeting at www.gadsdenclerk.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3. Motion to Adjourn

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

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**KIMBLIN NESMITH, 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 21, 2023 AT 6:00
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: **Kimblin NeSmith, Chair, District 3**
 Eric Hinson, Vice-Chair, District 1
 Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2
 Brenda Holt, District 4
 Ronterious “Ron” Green, District 5 – appeared by phone
 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 NeSmith called the meeting to order, Commissioner Green gave the Invocation and Chair NeSmith the led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Dixon asked to pull items 7 & 8 and add Item 8a-Emergency Approval of the Non-Profit Human Services Funding Agreement and Interlocal Agreement for Human Senior Services for FY22/23.

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

- 1. Ratification Memo**

- 2. Approval to Accept Reduced Payment for satisfaction of Special Assessment Liens dated February 2, 2015**

- 3. Approval of the Judicial Inquiry System (JIS) Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV)-Access Certification Statement**

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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

submitted after the deadline, but prior to the meeting, will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting. Citizens are further encouraged to participate via Zoom using the credentials on the County’s website. The Board’s meetings are also broadcast live on the Board’s Facebook page. Mr. Dixon read aloud the above statement.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

4. Approval of Resolution 2023-005 Grant Budget Amendment for FY 2023

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said they were budget amendments to be approved. Mr. Dixon said the amount was \$10 Million.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND CHAIR NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD A QUESTION BEFORE VOTE WAS TAKEN.

Commissioner Holt asked for the amount and Mr. Dixon explained he was looking at the wrong agenda item. He explained these were budget amendments for various roads, EMS grant award, DEO grant award and ARPA grant award.

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

5. Approval to Accept Proposed Funding Agreement #F0098 from the Florida Division of Emergency Management for Construction of the Emergency Operations Center and Public Safety Complex

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said this was for approval to accept the proposed funding agreement #F0098 from the Florida Division of Emergency Management for construction of the new Emergency Operations Center and Public Safety Complex.

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

6. Approval of Budget Amendment 2023-033 to Move Budget from Reserve for Contingency to Purchase Property located at Gadsden County Parcel ID# 3-24-2N-4W-0000-0100-2426 Pat Thomas Parkway

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval for Budget Amendment #2023-033 to move budget from Reserve for Contingency for the purchase of property located at Gadsden County Parcel ID# 3-24-2N-4W-0000-00330-0100 - 2426 Pat Thomas Parkway.

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

~~7. Approval of the Agreement between the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners and the Gadsden County Senior Citizen Foundation, Inc.~~

ITEM PULLED

~~8. Approval of Gadsden County Indigent Burial Policy~~

ITEM PULLED

8a. Emergency Approval of the Non-Profit/Human Services Funding Agreement and Interlocal Agreement for Human Senior Services for FY 2022/2023

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated there was money was already in the budget to fund \$60,000 to fund Gadsden Senior Services (GSS) and they were running low on funds. He further stated this money was needed to continue to operate as the County moves through the process to take over that position.

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

Commissioner Green said he did not know what the funds looked like as of right now and was unsure if the \$60,000 would be adequate to ensure they were able to function until they got to the next step.

Commissioner Hinson arrived at 6:14 pm (he had been on Zoom before arriving)

Mr. Dixon said he hoped to have the Agreement finished by the next meeting and was hopeful additional funds would not be needed.

Commissioner Hinson said he thought it was fair to support other organizations as well as the Wellness program. He said Gretna had received their \$10,000 and asked why others had not received their money. He stated he was surprised GSS did not receive their money. He said if they approved this, they needed to make sure everyone received their money.

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

CLERK OF COURT

9. Updates

The Deputy Clerk stated there was nothing to report.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

10. Updates

Mr. Dixon said this was Black History Month and he listed named several activities that will be taking place around town.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

11. Updates

Mr. Knowles stated he had nothing to report.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

12 Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2

Commissioner Simpkins thanked staff for the movie in the park on Sunday.

She requested a workshop in regards to the ARP funding and wanted them to take a look at the County's Organizational chart. She asked if a meeting was planned regarding the local broadband and Mr. Dixon replied the Local Planning Team (LPT) will meet early March.

She invited them to the Carter Parramore Academy on Thursday at 9:30 for their Black History program.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

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

Commissioner Holt asked to rename the new Extension Center after Al Lawson.

Commissioner Hinson said there was also Dr. Henry Grant who worked there for over 30 years and was the first black Extension Director.

Commissioner Green asked the proper way to handle the process. Mr. Dixon said the proper way was to agenda this and hold a hearing.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO RENAME THE NEW EXTENSION CENTER AFTER CONGRESSMAN AL LAWSON AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, Chair, District 5

Commissioner Green said they all agreed with Commissioner Simpkins that Movie night was a success.

He mentioned the new school zone lights on Highway 90 at Robert F. Monroe after a child lost their life in an accident there. He asked if a plaque could be placed there. Mr. Dixon said he would reach out to FDOT regarding that.

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson said he had hoped they could have a conversation with RFM regarding the traffic.

He mentioned infrastructure and said that was needed. They need to have meetings so they could start strategizing.

He asked for a Resolution for Rev. Mose Harris, whose son passed away. He also asked for one Dr. Gerald Hinson.

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

Mr. Dixon also mentioned that Auburn Ford had passed away.

COMMISSIONER HOLT ASKED FOR A PROCLAMATION IN HONOR OF AUBURN FORD AND CHAIR NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Green said he was glad they mentioned Mr. Ford’s passing and gave his service time that would be Sunday at 1:00 pm.

Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, Vice Chair, District 3

Chair NeSmith thanked the Commissioners and staff for the movie night.

He congratulated Commissioner Green for being honored by the Kingdom Light Tabernacle Church with the African American Trailblazer Innovator of the Year award for 2023.

He also thanked him for coming up with the idea for the movie night.

Chair NeSmith said democracy was a very delicate institution. They said they, as a Board, must focus on what was important in government. He said their primary job was to maintain the health, safety and welfare of the citizens. He asked for support to create a gallery to honor the great women of Gadsden County, FL that have done great things. He asked for a workshop between now and June to plan what the gallery would look like. Commissioner Holt said they have to remember in doing these things, they were taking staff away from their regular jobs and giving them more assignments.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 7:08 p.m.

Commissioner Holt returned at 7:10 pm.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:10 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**KIMBLIN NESMITH, 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 FEBRUARY 22, 2023 AT 4:00
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

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

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair NeSmith called the workshop to order at 4:05 p.m., Commissioner Green gave the invocation and the Chair then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair NeSmith welcomed everyone to the workshop.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD (3-Minute Limit)

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GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Welcome

2. Discussion of North Florida Rural Health Corporation

Col. Walter L. “Mickey” Presha, Board Chair of North Florida Rural Health Corp., appeared before the Board and he introduced others that were with him.

Kyle Kwik, President and CEO of North Florida Rural Health Corp. appeared before the Board. He said it was the mission of NFRHC (North Florida Rural Health Corp) to bring premier healthcare providers as well as service to meet the needs of the citizens of Gadsden County.

Commissioner Holt appeared at 4:12 p.m.

He continued by saying they would work with local organizations, minimize barriers through telemedicine and transportation to help meet the needs of the community. He said their purpose is to come into the Chattahoochee building to provide Health Care Services with the anticipation to expanding their services to include the following: OBGYN, pediatrics, cardiology, mental health and behavior health, pharmacy, dental, internal medicine and infectious diseases.

Floyd Hill, CIO with NFRHC, appeared before the Board and gave background on Col. Presha.

Mr. Kwik reappeared before the Board and introduced Gayle Williams, CEO, along with the rest of the Advisory Board; the Executive team, the Medical Director and the Providers.

He explained for the first 12 months of operations, NFRH has had an operating budget of approximately \$4,037,000. The estimated economic impact is over \$7,000,000. Studies show that for every \$1 Million spent from indigent care funds, on average 6.1 new jobs are associated to it.

Commissioner Green stepped out at 4:20 p.m.

Mr. Kwik said there was a great need for services in the services that were planned to be provided with the pharmacy, lab, primary health/behavioral health, dental, transportation and telehealth. He stated through the Ordinance, hospitals, clinics and other providers were eligible for this funding. He stated they were asking for a 3-year funding request. They are asking for \$1 Million per year fund allocation. Year 1 the funds are placed in a pool for NFRH to draw down for patient services. They are asking in Year 2 \$100,000 is advanced for the LIP matching program via IGT to ACHA for uncompensated medical care cost and cost of medical services for the uninsured. The clinic would provide \$100,000 worth of services before drawing from the pool. He said those funds would allow them to bring in specialty services, additional physicians and additional services to the County. He added NFRH must see \$100,000 worth of patients, actually 666 patients before they are able to draw the remaining balance of the \$900,000. He explained they would be taking the \$100,000 out of the \$1 Million and placing it with the State (ACHA). He said the State would give them additional funds on top of that for doing so, along with the Federal government. He said when the County puts up money, the State says if 0.39¢, the State would put up a \$1.00 and is matched with the Federal government. In Year 3, \$100,000 is advanced for the LIP matching program via IGT to ACHA for uncompensated medical care cost and cost of medical services for the uninsured. He said NFRH must see the patients in order to receive the \$100,000 that was sent to the State. The Clinic will provide \$100,000 worth of services before drawing from pool. He said the County would be getting a 2 for 1, the citizens were being seen, still providing services and getting money from the State, as well as from the Federal government. He said the intake process was very important. When a patient comes in to see a provider, they are asked if they have any insurance; once it is determined they do not have insurance, they are triaged and placed with a Medicaid specialist and see what services they are qualified for. He said the patient would receive that needed coverage in which they were eligible for and would reduce the number of uninsured patients while improving the overall Health Care.

He said they were asking for every uninsured patient, there is \$150.00 charge, also with dental; Pharmacy is AWP (average wholesale price) – 20 he said this was the same thing they charge Medicaid and Medicare; they would receive a 20% discount on the price of medicine. Every patient will have lab costs that are passed through to the County and they would not make any money on that; the transportation is the national standard and is \$45 for the first ten miles and \$3.65 per additional mile for non-ambulatory transportation.

The expected outcomes were:

- Increased access to primary care services;
- Increased access to behavior health services;
- Increased access to dental services;
- Reduction in the rates of avoidable Emergency Room visits (ER diversions).

He said the ER diversions, according to a report by CBS News in 2020, Florida was the most expensive state for emergency room visits. Moderate to severity ER patients are billed an average of \$3,102 for an ER visit before insurance. They County's cost would be \$150. Instead of a patient going to the ER, they would go to a clinic and for every 500 visits, it would be a savings of \$1.5 Million.

He went back to the expected outcomes:

- Lower rates of preventable hospitalizations and readmissions; and
- Better rankings in health outcomes and health factors on the annual County Health Rankings report. Currently, Gadsden County was ranked numbers 63 and 64 out of 67 of the most unhealthy counties in Florida.

They have put together a comprehensive plan strategy process of procedures to better the outcome for Gadsden County.

Chair NeSmith Smith asked where they were currently operating and Mr. Kwik said currently they were not operating, the first will be in Chattahoochee, the second in Gretna and the third was ion conversation with Franklin County.

Commissioner Green asked if he could give them a county that has a similar program and Mr. Kwik said Ms. Williams would address that.

Ms. Gaye Williams, Advisory Board Chair, appeared before the Board and gave her background. Polk County overwhelmingly approved the ½ cent discretionary sales surtax for Indigent Health Care in 2004 and was approved again for 25 years in 2016. She said there were two plans in Polk County, the Polk County Health Plan and a Grants and Aid application. Each one has eligibility requirements and provides for specific care under each program. Her organization has a fixed price contract and they submit quarterly reports to the Polk County Indigent Care Department. All contracts were subject to audit and monitoring.

Commissioner Green asked if Polk County would be a good county to look at that did this type of services for their citizens. Ms. Williams said she could leave them the contact information of a young lady she spoke with prior to coming.

Chair NeSmith asked if the group and she said the Polk County Indigent Health Care Department. She said the board of county commissioners had a Citizens Oversight Committee and that committee channels the processing through the Department of Health and Human Services in Polk County. Chair NeSmith said the organization was under the county and she responded yes. Chair NeSmith asked if the organization was still in existence and she said yes.

Col. Presha reappeared before the Board and said he was proud to say they flew under the radar and was told they should have been a model for the Nation. He explained they were planning to put one in Chattahoochee planned to model the program after the Polk County program.

Commissioner Green asked from the \$1 Million set aside, how would it grow?

Col. Presha said the growth that Mr. Kwik talked about with the matching fund. The money could be set aside and invested but the biggest thing was the matching fund.

Commissioner Green asked once approved, what was the expected opening date they had in mind.

Commissioner Holt asked about the state portion, it was approximately 30¢ on the dollar.

Commissioner Green left at 4:50 pm

Commissioner Holt said the needed to schedule this and move on it.

Chair NeSmith said this Board understood the need for health care services in the County. Ms. Daniels explained, hypothetically, the first year, \$1 Million will be placed in a pool for NFRH to draw down for patient services; they will send \$100,000 to the State, the next year \$100,000 is advanced for the LIP matching program via IGT to ACHA for uncompensated medical care cost and cost of medical services for the uninsured. The clinic will provide \$100,000 worth of services before drawing before drawing from the pool.

Commissioner Holt asked Ms. Daniels the amount in the Indigent Care fund and she said right now around \$2 Million but there were things that had to be paid from that. Commissioner Holt asked how much interest was collected every year and she was not sure. Commissioner Holt asked for a copy of the distribution of the last five years.

Commissioner Simpkins stepped out at 5:13 pm.

There was more conversation concerning the amount that is paid out of the Indigent account and how much was left on the bond. Commissioner Holt also stated this information was needed before the meeting.

Commissioner Simpkins returned at 5:19 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson left at 5:21 p.m.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
February 22, 2023 – North Florida Rural Health Corp. Workshop

There was more round table discussion regarding the program between the Commissioners and the representatives from North Florida Rural Health Corp.

Commissioner Hinson returned at 5:29 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson suggested they have a workshop on the indigent tax program so they could better understand everything.

Commissioner Hinson thanked them for coming.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH DECLARED THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED AT 5:39 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

KIMBLIN NESMITH, 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 7, 2023 AT 6:00 P.M.,
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

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

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair NeSmith welcomed everyone, Commissioner Simpkins gave the Invocation, and Chair NeSmith led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

Amendments and Approval of Agenda

Mr. Dixon asked to pull Items 14 and 15 from the Agenda.

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

Awards, Presentations and Appearances

1. Proclamation Honoring Women in Construction Week (March 5 – 11, 2023)

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said this was Women in Construction Week. The representative was not present at this time and Commissioner Holt asked to hold the plaque in case they showed later.

2. Presentation Regarding a Community Garden in Chattahoochee

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and Ms. Pam Medley, President of the Chattahoochee Main Street.

Ms. Pam Medley came before the Board regarding this project.

Katherine Beck, State Coordinator for Mainstreet was present and gave a little more information regarding the program.

Ms. Medley said the benefactors of the community garden would be the seniors and citizens of the area. She went before the Board to ask they partner with them. Commissioner Holt said this could be a model project they could use.

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.

3. **Ratification Memo**
4. **BOCC Meeting/Workshop Minutes:**
 - a. **January 31, 2023 Workshop**
 - b. **February 7, 2023 Workshop**
5. **Approval and Signature on the E911 2023 Spring Rural County Grant Application for E911 System and MapFlex Annual Support and Maintenance**
6. **Approval of Animal Control Interlocal Agreement with the City of Chattahoochee**
7. **Approval of the Planned Service Agreement with Johnson Controls for Inspections and Diagnostic Test for the Sprinkler System at the Gadsden County Jail**
8. **Approval of Time Clock Plus, LLC (Aladtec) Agreement**
9. **Approval for Gadsden County Emergency Services to Submit the Application for the SAFER Grant**
10. **Berger Singerman, LLP Transition**

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

The Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners welcomes and encourages public participation at all meetings of the Board. Citizens are free to speak for up to three (3) minutes on non-agenda items. Public comments and participation are also encouraged for items on the agenda. Additionally, if you are unable to attend a meeting in person, comments from the Public can also be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until noon on the date of the meeting. Comments submitted after the deadline, but prior to the meeting, will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting. Citizens are further encouraged to participate via Zoom using the credentials on the County's website. The Board's meetings are also broadcast live on the Board's Facebook page. Mr. Dixon read aloud the above statement.

Commissioner Hinson read the above statement aloud.

Jeanné Freeman, Chief Executive Office of Neighborhood Medical Center, appeared before the Board regarding Neighborhood Medical Center and said they have been there since 2013.

She explained the services they provide and they are offered on a sliding scale. They have just received funding to build a new location.

Commissioner Green said he was glad to see her and asked for a copy of her statistics.

Commissioner Hinson said the Board has partnered with them in the past and has donated two dental chairs to their program.

Commissioner Green asked if she could provide something showing services they provide.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if they serve the uninsured and she said yes.

Patrick Brown, Chief Medical Officer, North Florida Medical, appeared before the Board and is the Chief Medical Officer of the North Florida Medical Jessie Furlow Medical Center. He mentioned the services they provide.

Chair NeSmith said the was great information and was worthy of a workshop.

Emanuel Sapp, 821 2nd Street, Quincy, FL appeared before the Board. He said he approved of Item 9 and said senior programs were vital in this community.

Kathy Brown, 1592 Salley Brown Road, Quincy, FL appeared before the Board and was t representing the Gadsden Senior Center. Since the item was pulled, they had one question, if funds have been released to the GSS and when would the money be made available.

Mr. Dixon said funding was released to GSS, they did not have funding and the Board released additional funding so they could maintain their level of funding until they could work out kinks in regard to the situation. They are using money to continue to pay people to be there. Mr. Dixon asked if they went on their trip and trip was to be tomorrow and she said there was no funding. He said funding was authorized yesterday. He also said it would be worked out.

Edwin Rush, 416 W. Crawford Street, Quincy, FL he said the question they have on a daily basis is when will the money be coming so they can plan the trip. The trip was changed because the money was not there.

Mr. Dixon said they had to give them emergency money to make ends meet until they could work things out. He thought the funding was able to get there so they could make their trip.

Commissioner Holt said they all get the same amount of time. He approved the money for the trip yesterday. When he realized they did not have the money, he meant for them to make the

trip and bill the Board for that. Commissioner Holt said when something is approved, they do not write the check, it has to go to the Clerk's Office for the check to be written.

Ms. Brown wanted to make sure she understood, was the \$60,000 was it being used? Mr. Dixon said that money was being used for the employees right now. They were trying to finish their process and this should be on the Agenda for the next meeting.

Commissioner Green said in the future they need to figure out how they could help with sponsoring activities to avoid these sorts of problems.

Commissioner Hinson said the elephant in the room was the Board was asked specifically about the \$60,000 and he mentioned the money should go for outreach.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 7:03 pm

Commissioner Hinson continued and said if the check was written Friday; they should have received the money and been able to go on this trip.

Commissioner Green said in defense of staff, he was sure they understood why the money was not there for the trip, the bigger picture was making sure they could sustain the center.

Commissioner Holt returned at 7:04 p.m.

Commissioner Green continued and said they had to make sure business was taken care of at home before trips were taken.

Chair NeSmith said obviously there was a hiccup, but it will be resolved.

Mr. Rush asked if this was the first time that amount of money was allocated to the center and was told no. He asked where the money was.

Chair NeSmith said the money was to fill a gap and was not the intention of the Board for this situation to happen and they will do everything to make sure this does not happen again.

Commissioner Simpkins said they were making sure they will not have these issues they currently have. They are working so that they will not come in and say they were not working for the seniors. They have not gotten all the kinks worked out. It will be laid out at the next meeting.

Ms. Brown said they love their staff and did want them paid, they work very hard to take care of the seniors.

Commissioner Holt thanked them for coming and was glad because she was asked on several occasions to explain what was going on.

Commissioner Hinson said they need to earmark money to the seniors. When a Commissioner directs the Administrator and staff to do something, it has to be done.

Gary Murray, 484 Woodberry Road, Quincy, FL appeared before the Board regarding Woodberry Road. He said he received a letter in July from the BOCC that they would be getting started on that road. Chair NeSmith asked if he had spoken with the County Administrator and he said he has called numerous times and has never received a call back. Mr. Dixon said things were not going as fast as they would like them to but would try to move things along.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

11. Public Hearing-Legislative-205 Glade Road, Peavy Small Scale Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map Amendment (SSPA 2023-01) Ordinance 2023-01

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was presented to the Board for consideration of the adoption of Ordinance 2023-01 and its transmittal to the Florida Department of Economic Development for a Small-Scale Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map amendment cut to change the future land use designation from commercial to agriculture 1 on a 16.72-acre parcel.

Commissioner Green stepped out 7:16 p.m.

Mr. Dixon said Mr. Stiell would present the item.

Justin Stiell, Growth Management Director, appeared before the Board and said it was for consideration of adoption of Ordinance 2023-01 and its transmittal to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity for a Small-Scale Comprehensive Plan and is for Parcel ID Number: 2-14-3N-2W-0000-00243-0300.

Commissioner Simpkins stepped out at 7:18 pm

Commissioner Green returned at 7:19 p.m.

Mr. Stiell continued explaining the property and said the applicant's intent, once the amendment is approved, is to split the current 16.72-acre parcel into a 5.67-acre parcel and a 11.05-acre parcel for agriculture uses and residences associated with such use was compliant with the Gadsden County Land Development Code. At the February 16, 2023 meeting, the Planning Commission unanimously voted to recommended approval of this item.

Commissioner Simpkins returned at 7:19 p.m.

Mr. Stiell explained the options to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Hinson said he had an opportunity to review this and agreed with it.

Greg Smith, Esquire, Remington Green Circle, Tallahassee, FL appeared before the Board and said he was representing Mr. Peavy if the Commissioners had any questions.

Commissioner Hinson said if there were no questions, he would like to make a motion.

Chair NeSmith asked if there was anyone who wished to make any comments and there was no one.

Commissioner Holt asked if there was a well already on the property and was told there was no well or septic tanks. There are wetlands and that will be addressed at the site plan. She asked if the entire property would be Agriculture 1 and Mr. Stiell said yes.

Mr. Stiell said this allows 1 house per 5 acres.

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

GENERAL BUSINESS

12. Approval of Task Order with Alday Howell, Engineering, Inc. for the Survey and Design of CR 274 (Providence Road Resurfacing Project)

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to execute a task order with Alday Howell, Engineering Inc. for the survey and design of CR 274 (Providence Road) resurfacing project.

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

13. FDOT Grant Applications – Resolutions

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said this was for FDOT's SCRAP, SCOP, B-SCOP and CIGP application cycle that was currently open. Staff has put forth for their review the following roads:

- Aspalaga Road, Goodson Road - SCOP
- Dogtown Road, Rowan Road - SCRAP

- Mt. Pleasant Road, W. L. Martin Road - CIGP
- Ochlocknee Relief, Cane Creek – B-SCOP

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

14. ~~Approval of the Agreement between the Gadsden County BOCC and the Gadsden County Senior Citizen Foundation, Inc.~~

Item Pulled

15. ~~Approval of Gadsden County Indigent Burial Policy~~

Item Pulled

16. Approval of the Medicare Fee Schedule

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was presented to the Board to approve a new Medicare Allowable Fee. He explained the current rate fell below the accepted standard and was recommended by the billing company to revise the agency charge rates.

Kris Hood, EMS Director, appeared before Board and said it had been four years since the rates had been raised.

Commissioner Holt asked if this raised the fee schedule for the patients and Mr. Dixon explained that was between the patient and their provider.

Commissioner Hinson asked if they should have a workshop on this. Commissioner Green said this was a general scale that was going across regional.

Chair NeSmith said this was standard.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER GREEN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE OPTION 1.

CLERK OF COURT

17. Updates

The Deputy Clerk said there was nothing to report.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

18. Updates

Mr. Dixon said a schedule was given to them and was Commissioner Simpkins suggested to have daytime meetings during the week to not take up weekends. They were trying to get in some of the activities they had spoken of. Currently the Strategic Planning workshop was scheduled for Saturday, March 11th from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. and the ARPA workshop could be moved to a Monday or Thursday.

Commissioner Green said that was a good idea because Saturdays was busy for him with services.

Chair NeSmith said he was amenable for weekday meetings as well.

Commissioner Hinson suggested everyone bring their personal calendar to the meeting and then they could schedule meetings.

Commissioner Hinson also said too many things was going on with infrastructure and the Bicentennial. There was also ARPA money that needed to be spent by next year.

Commissioner Holt said with her sitting on the TDC, she hoped they would have a Bicentennial Celebration. She asked why they were having the State of the County Address on a Monday, it should be 10 minutes before the meeting. Chair NeSmith said this would be different and they wanted the community invited to the State of the County Address. She asked where it would be held and he responded they had to decide on a location. Commissioner Holt said usually that should cover what happened the past year and that would be towards the end of the year.

Mr. Dixon thanked them for their confidence during Black History Month and hoped the events were to their liking.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

19. Updates

Mr. Knowles stated they were at the point in litigation with the Figgers Communication lawsuit that he was requesting a shade meeting for March 21st and asked for an affirmative vote.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER GREEN THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO HOLD A SHADE MEETING ON MARCH 21st REGARDING THE FIGGERS COMMUNICATION LAWSUIT.

He said he will bring this back at the next meeting after receiving a little more information, there is a program through the Florida Bar that offers legal interns to municipalities and they provide a certain amount of funding each year to assist local governments and may come back at the next

meeting in conjunction with potential probate seminar along with probate interns through the Certified Legal Intern clearance.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

20. Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2

Commissioner Simpkins wanted to give thanks to the Administrator and staff that played a part in the Black History celebration and said hats off to them. She also wanted to make sure they were continuously working on the Fire rating issue with the ISO and was moving along with that and told the Administrator she hoped to see a plan soon.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt wanted to let everyone know there was damage done to the round-about and they were looking at getting that taken care of and she and the Administrator have talked and were looking at a plan to repair.

She said she and the Board needed to look at a flow chart on contracts and when looking at contracts regarding Fire, Animal Control, etc., if they could look at getting those scheduled at the same time. She said that way they could compare what was being done and what the services were.

She said they were still looking for a permanent budget director and a grant writer. She also asked for a flow chart on all grants, funding, and contracts.

Bostic Road Upgrade

She said she was cornered by Seniors and the road was looking pretty rough. She said Mr. Young told her one day they were still patching until something was done with it and it was on the schedule.

She said she had written down about the dental in Chattahoochee and it was very important.

Hospital

The half cent tax was passed for a hospital and it stated "for other health care services" but the first item that was seen on the ballot was the hospital. She said they have to address that and if they cannot address that, they have to provide the services there. She said Chattahoochee was driving too far to come to Quincy or go to Marianna and people at the Georgia line was trying to get to Bainbridge or to Quincy. The other thing was, and she wanted to ask the doctor and knew she could not, out of all the people seen by them, how many had Medicaid that had to go to Leon County, Jackson County or Bainbridge, because that was where the money went. They need to look at capturing that money in this county.

She wanted to thank the Administrator and staff for the good job done regarding the Black History celebration.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5

Commissioner Simpkins asked with the strategic planning workshop, she would like for them to look at the Organizational Chart.

Commissioner Green said it was important to say thank you to the Administrator and staff regarding the Black History activities.

He wanted to make sure they were on target for the County celebration and wanted to see it take place and have a discussion. He said he believed there was a date given but hoped they could reconsider the date due to the fact there was a conference going on with National NACo in Miami at the same time.

He again asked for a schedule for striping of the roads. Mr. Dixon said they were striping now. **Curtis Young, Interim Public Works Director**, appeared before the Board and said that the list could be gotten to him.

Hiring Process

He said they have been looking for an Economic Development Director for a while and asked if there have been any additional applicants that applied? Do they need to come back to the table as it related to funding or salary and asked about the hiring process for supervisors and managers? Mr. Dixon said regarding the Economic Development Director, the body has the last say-so, not him. Commissioner Green said he was aware of that as it related to that position, but asked how it related to the HR Director or Public Works Director or any other directors. He asked what was the process for directorial positions. Mr. Dixon said every department recommends to HR someone to be hired, HR has the say before that person was offered the position because of having to do the background checks, etc. Once that happens, that person or the paperwork was generally brought before him to sign off on. Commissioner Green asked about the interview process.

Mr. Dixon explained each department was different. If it is a Department Director, there will be other directors and sometimes outside directors who help hire that position. Generally, they are people at or above the level of the hire making up those committees. He said the committees change every hiring process and that was intentional.

Stephens School Update

He asked if there were any updates regarding the school and Mr. Dixon said they received a letter that told them they needed to do a full-scale environmental study, which will set the project back and they were to do nothing else until that study was approved by DEO. He said

they were meeting with their lobbyists and others to see why this was happening now. Mr. Stiell appeared before the Board and said they received verbal confirmation with the documents that were submitted on Monday they would be approved. At that point they could sign a contract with the engineer so they could begin the environmental review process.

Mr. Dixon said several counties have written DEO about these types, several projects have been delayed and they had no idea that a full-scale environmental study would need to be done. He said they were working their “other strategies” to try to minimize those situations so the deadline could be met.

Upgrades on Parks

He asked how they were looking and said one thing he would like to see that has become popular was a pickle ball court. He said he has to travel to Tallahassee for pickle ball and it is a great activity and more seasoned adults were playing it. He asked if they could have a pickle ball court in some of the county parks.

Mr. Dixon said they were working, and he was not the only one on him about the parks. The engineers were looking at the parks now and hoped to come to them very soon with a plan to doing some parks this year and some next year. They all were looking aged and dated.

Chair NeSmith said with regard to the Economic Development Director, his question was not answered and he spoke with the HR Director and was informed her office has expanded the listing and was on several employment sites now.

Commissioner Eric Hinson, Vice-Chair, District 1

Commissioner Hinson thanked and dittoed what the other Commissioners said about the Black History committee and everyone did a great job.

Mr. Dixon said the City of Quincy already asked if the County would get together with them on a regular movie night, etc. He said the enthusiasm was there.

Commissioner Hinson said the Havana Community Development Corporation was having an All Black Legacy Party presented on April 1st from 7:00 p.m. – 12 AM and will have a young lady from Havana, Ms. Denesia “Blue June” Andrews there and she will be celebrated at the event. He added it was posted on One Gadsden Facebook Page. He asked for a Proclamation.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER GREEN, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE A PROCLAMATION FOR MS. ANDREWS.

Commissioner Hinson said the AKA’s wanted to host a biz crawl on the Courthouse square on June 10th. He also asked for a proclamation for Dr. Gerald Hinson.

Commissioner Green said he also wanted to offer condolences to Sheriff Young on the transition of his Father.

Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, Chair, District 3

Commissioner Simpkins congratulated Commissioner Green on the opening of his store (Railroad Square in Tallahassee) and wanted to challenge them, as she listened to Leon County and City Commissioners and wanted them to take up the challenge to help small businesses like they have.

Chair NeSmith thanked Commissioner Simpkins for reminding them of this. He said there was a comment made asking why he was always thanking staff, etc., and he hoped that person saw this Board had a different spirit.

Commissioner Hinson said he had a workshop and was unable to make the grand opening of his store.

Chair NeSmith said democracy was a very delicate institution and last week he had the opportunity to represent citizens at the 2023 NW Florida Economic Symposium and brought back a plethora of information.

He reminded them if they had not done so, to pre-register for the Small County Coalition that would be downtown in Tallahassee on March 14th between 5:30 – 7:30 pm.

He congratulated Commissioner Holt for being the longest serving female commissioner and Commissioner Simpkins for being the first female commissioner from her District to serve on the Commission.

Greenlight Moment

Commissioner Green thanked everyone for their comments and congratulations to him.

As it relates to the “Greenlight Moment”, he wanted to reflect on a mindset.

“A powerful mind can achieve anything, but you have to challenge the mind, informing the mind that you are in control of it. Set challenges for your mind. In other words, read things you don’t normally read, go somewhere you don’t normally go or don’t like to go, find something likeable about everything that you did not like. That is changing the mindset. Stop eating something that you love but may not love you; that’s mindset.”

He said that because he just recently did that on a seven-day journey of no sweets and no sugar and did so because he wanted to challenge his mind.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
March 7, 2023-Regular Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH DECLARED
THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:33 P.M.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FL

**KIMBLIN NESMITH, 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 21, 2023 AT 6:00 PM,
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 J. Dixon, County Administrator
 Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
 Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk
 Adriana Quijada, Clerk Secretary

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair NeSmith welcomed everyone and asked them to silence their devices, asked Commissioner Green 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 Items 6 and 16 and Commissioner Hinson asked why Items 4 and 5 were not under General Business. Mr. Knowles said if he would like to pull them for discussion he could, but it did not matter if they were on the Consent Agenda or General Business. Mr. Dixon asked to add Item 16a-Approval of Donations for the Black History Month Celebration and Mr. Knowles asked to add Item 6b-Approval of Settlement Offer.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER GREEN, 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 PRESENTED.

- 1. Ratification Memo**

- 2. BOCC Meeting/Workshop Minutes:**
 - a. February 1, 2023 Workshop**
 - b. February 7, 2023 BOCC Meeting**
 - c. February 8, 2023 Workshop**
 - d. February 21, 2023 BOCC Meeting**

3. Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Liens and Rehabilitation Contracts-SHIP
4. Ratification of Approval to Confirm the Director of Human Resources
5. Ratification of Approval to Confirm the Director of Elderly Affairs
6. Approval of Lease Agreements for Tenants located at the Recently Purchased Property (2426 Pat Thomas Parkway, Quincy, FL)
Item pulled

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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Chair NeSmith read aloud the above statement.

Timmy Dyke, 244 NE Barley Ct., Lee, FL-Ability 1st Wheel Chair ramp program

Mr. Dyke appeared before the Board and spoke on behalf of Ability 1st Wheel Chair ramps. He has money to spend in Gadsden County and asked for volunteers to help build ramps within the County. He hoped to make strides in Gadsden and Wakulla County.

Commissioner Green said he has directed people to him and this was a way for people to give back to the community.

Commissioner Hinson said he would contact One Gadsden Foundation to get help from them regarding this matter.

Bibi Ramos, 525 N MLK Jr., Blvd., Tallahassee, FL – NWF Health Network

Ms. Ramos appeared before the Board on behalf of NWF Network and explained what they did. The Commissioners were interested in having her come back for a workshop on this matter at a later date.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

7. Attapulgus Highway-Bid Award

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to award the construction of the Attapulgus Highway resurfacing project to CW Roberts, Inc. in the amount of \$3,476,959.90. There is no fiscal impact to the County as this is a FDOT SCOP project.

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

8. Attapulgus Highway Supplemental Agreement

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was for Board approval of the Attapulgus Supplemental Agreement in the amount of \$3,836,791.00. There is no fiscal impact to the County as this is a FDOT SCOP project.

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

Commissioner Hinson said they had bid something out before and it was never completed. Mr. Dixon asked what company did that and Commissioner Hinson said it was CW Roberts. Mr. Dixon stated he would look into that matter.

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

9. Attapulgus Highway-CEI Agreement

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to the negotiated rates and agreement for the CEI-AE Engineering, Inc. in amount of \$3,836,791.00. This project was a funded by FDOT and posed no fiscal impact to the County.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER GREEN ASKED TO ALSO NOTE THERE WAS NO FISCAL IMPACT TO THE COUNTY. CHAIR NESMITH CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS MATTER.

10. Iron Bridge Road Safety Improvement-Bid Award

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to award the construction of the Iron Bridge Road Safety Improvement (LAP) construction of the CR 153 Iron Bridge Road Guardrail project to Capital Asphalt in the amount of \$581,934.80.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE FOR DISCUSSION AND
COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND.**

Commissioner Hinson asked if the Administrator could give the citizens a brief synopsis. Mr. Dixon said this would include upgraded guardrail and shoulders. This is a LAP agreement funded through FDOT in the amount of \$655,311 and would be no fiscal impact to the County.

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

11. Ralph Strong Road Sidewalk Project-Bid Award

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval to award the construction of the Ralph Strong Road (LAP) Sidewalk project in the amount of \$887,200.32 to Hale Contracting, Inc. and would be no fiscal impact to the County.

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

12. Approval of Resolution 2023-007 Grant Budget Amendments for FY 2023

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval of budget amendments and Resolution 2023-007 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 2023 budget.

Commissioner Simpkins asked about Fund 194 and Ms. Daniels appeared before the Board and said this was ARPA funds and was another pot of money that the County was awarded as well as the \$4 Million of ARPA funds and it was a Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund that the County was allocated \$50,000 for last fiscal year and this fiscal year. The money came in at the same time as the ARPA money and was all Federal money and was related to the Corona Virus pandemic. The \$50,000 was placed in with ARPA funds and this amendment would take it out because there were different reporting requirements. It initially was placed in the wrong fund and this is taking out the \$50,000 received from last year and was putting the money in the General Fund because it could be used as general dollars and was putting the \$50,000 received for last year as well as another \$50,000 for a total of \$100,000 and taking it out of ARPA funds and placing it into the General Fund to be used as General Fund dollars.

Commissioner Holt said she understood the new Commissioner's questions because it was not explained well on the description.

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

13. Creation of the Gadsden County Elder Affairs Department

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval to create the Gadsden County Elderly Affairs Department to be managed by the Director and to take over all Senior Services throughout the County. He said prior to now, there was an Elder Affairs person that was housed in the Manager's Office. As they move forward with the process and look at the configurations, they know they are now in need of a Department. They feel it necessary to create the Elderly Affairs Department and move the majority of those people under the County in a Grant situation. It would give the best handle and opportunity. (He then passed around the Budget to all Commissioners and Deputy Clerk). The majority of the funding under this situation will remain with the BOCC and most of the employees will become County employees. Those who they were looking at end up being direct service workers, who for the near future, will remain under the non-profit, GSS, mainly for the licensing purpose. GSS to continue with the license that would allow them to work as the County did not have that license. All services were at a point to be determined by BOCC, they will transform those people and services to County control. The budget remains at the large number is a reorganization of those numbers to make sure they were able to carry out that mission. He said they understood the RFP was out and they were now in crunch time and it was time to get it. They believe they have everything in place.

Chair NeSmith said they were just receiving the budget and the Commissioners have not had a chance to review it closely. Mr. Dixon explained it was the same as in the book, it might be "tightened up" a bit but was the same as in the book.

Commissioner NeSmith said they had an opportunity to talk about the title and Mr. Dixon shared that he was not happy with the term "Elderly Affairs" and wanted to put out for the Board to look at.

Commissioner Green said at this point, he wanted to get this approved and they could come back to the naming of the organization at another time.

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

14. Approval of the Agreement between BOCC and the Gadsden County Senior Citizen Foundation, Inc.

Commissioner Green said he thought this was an opportunity as well and was going to wait and if not in order for them to let him know, but they have been talking about having non-profit meetings so they could identify what non-profits were asking from the Board and who

they could and could not help. The last meeting the Clerk was here and he stated they had funds they could give to other senior services. He said he has had several constituents call and he met with them about the other Foundation that offers senior services. He asked if it was ok to make a motion, because they have to do something for that Foundation, he could do it in his comments or do it now.

Mr. Knowles asked if he was asking if they could shift funding to the other organization and Commissioner Green said yes. Mr. Knowles said that might be a budget question. He did not think procedurally there was a problem but if they move money, thought they should do a Resolution like they did earlier. The motion might be to direct the County Administrator to bring that Budget Resolution back at the next meeting and vote then.

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for the approval of the agreement between the BOCC and the Gadsden County Senior Citizen Foundation, Inc. He said there was an agreement for their approval. He explained it had a lot of things in it that was required on every end, the monitoring, gives them the authority to end the contract and the ability to monitor anything the Foundation does. They want the Foundation to be successful and they have one goal and that is to sell Senior services and fundraise for them. They will not have any staff that belongs to Services but will have the ability to help with programing. He asked they approve the contract.

Chair NeSmith asked about the fiscal impact and Mr. Dixon said it was \$40,000 and was in the budget. He said it is using the Foundation to deliver services in a different way than they were able to do.

Commissioner Green asked if that would be in addition to what they have already agreed to give to the Foundation. Mr. Dixon said it was within the budget of \$475,000.

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

15. Discussion and Direction Regarding the Gadsden County Indigent Burial Policy

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for Board discussion and direction regarding Policy 2023-01; Indigent Burial Program Policy.

Mr. Knowles said this was brought about because there are certain mandates within the Legislature that require the County to take on certain responsibilities as it relates to unclaimed human remains. He explained that prior to Commissioner NeSmith and Commissioner Green joining the Board, there was a lawsuit with TMH where they sued the County in order to take custody of some deceased remains that ended up where the costs were split. This policy would codify that and the impact stated there is currently \$2,000 budgeted and as the County

receives these, it may have to be brought back before the Board to get more authority. There have been two within the past few months.

Mr. Dixon explained one of the bodies was at the Medical Examiner's Office for almost two years. Secondly, the law requires the County to deal with the situation.

He said Legislature said the County "must take custody of and dispose of" and there are the bodies they were contractually obligated to dispose of. What was before the Commissioners was a policy that encompasses for the completely indigent persons who either have no family member or have a family member that cannot afford it, they could apply for the indigent burial program and receive a very basic disposition of the remains. He said lastly there was a provision that allowed for the disposition and if it was found out later the person who the County paid for their disposition was entitled to some type of money, life insurance, etc., the County could have the right to probate their estate and try to recapture funds that was put forth to dispose of the remains.

Commissioner Green said it would be a very complicated policy and his biggest concern was how to manage and dictate whose service would get utilized. He said there was rotation calls that are made as far as accidents and was there a process with funeral homes to be on rotation. He said there were a lot of people that did not have insurance but he did not want the County to take on that burden.

Commissioner Holt said Commissioner Green said most of what she was going to say. She asked Mr. Knowles to restate what was required by law.

Mr. Knowles said the law was a bit unclear. It said essentially, folks that die in the County that are indigent were required to be taken on for burial or disposition by the County. He said it was an unfunded mandate so it would require that there was not a next of kin and did not have the money.

Commissioner Holt said if they had to bury someone, they need to make sure they look at assets also. If not, there will be ones that would not want to claim the body to not have to pay for the final services.

Mr. Knowles said funeral homes would be different. The distinction would be if the next of kin could not be found. If they did cremate someone, the County could file a caveat with the County and if the estate was ever probated, that would function as a claim that they could be reimbursed for.

Commissioner Green said in order for them to get to the funeral home, they have to be claimed. If the body gets to the funeral home and does not have money to pay for the service, they try to work out a plan.

Commissioner Holt asked when they look at the length of time that an unclaimed body may be there, once the body is not claimed, they could look at their own policy. If they go ahead and do the cremation and a family member comes forward later saying that should not have happened, the liability should be written in the policy to address that.

Mr. Knowles said the Statute provides the County a measure of immunity because they are required to take possession of the bodies. They are a legally authorized person pursuant to statutes. The County would have the same rights as the family member.

Commissioner Green said to help with Commissioner Holt, in previous policies and other Counties, what is the limitation when it gets to this point? Once the County steps in, they should have already researched and sometimes they may have found the next of kin and the next of kin said they did not want to have anything to do with that person. Then they pretty much released the body and it is still at the Medical Examiner's office and the County is responsible for.

Mr. Dixon said the Sheriff has an obligation to search for next of kin, the County has an obligation to search also. Attached to the packet is an application and that forces the County to go down the line to find a next of kin. The first step is always cremation, there is only a burial under certain conditions.

Mr. Knowles said he thought it might be best to put out an RFQ to funeral homes that were interested and then put them on a rotation list.

Commissioner Simpkins said her point was already addressed, she wanted to make sure they were clear in their policy.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE A DRAFT POLICY WITH CONSIDERATION OF THE QUESTIONS THAT WERE ASKED.

~~16. Approval of the Contract with Dewberry for the CDBG-CV Engineering Services~~

Item Pulled

16a. Approval of Donations for the Black History Month Celebrations

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval of donations given during Black History Month. They were fortunate enough to have a good show as well and have

bumped into a stickler with the Clerk's Office. He stated he did not know why but they asked them to bring this before the Board for approval.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 7:20 pm

Mr. Dixon said donations were made to bands to come because otherwise they would not have been able to because they did not have traveling money. Donations were made to Black History and Cultural Committee so they could begin to take over some of the planning and be able to take it to another level. He said that was not all of the funding from the City, they will true up and provide additional donations as well. He said the donations were before them for their support.

Commissioner Green asked how much was budgeted and if they were within the amount that was budgeted and they approved.

Commissioner Holt returned at 7:22 pm

Mr. Dixon said they approved a total budget that included several things and they tried to stay within the budget of \$60,000. He said they stayed within that and once they true up, it will be much less than that.

Commissioner Green asked if they stayed within the budget or if they were a little over, could they amend the budget.

Mr. Dixon said this did not require them to amend the budget, the Clerk's Office was asking them to singularly approve those things. Commissioner Green said they were a month away and this was March 21st and have any of the people they have agreed to pay been paid. Mr. Dixon said some have been paid and a lot have not been paid.

Commissioner Green said that was a problem.

Commissioner Simpkins asked how much did the City contribute, what was the agreement to contribute to any costs. Mr. Dixon said they were going to go back, they asked the City to do certain things, entertainment and other things that they knew would get caught up so they used each other's system to move things. The City has agreed, like the band, to the donation to Black History and he said there was another that was around \$15,000-\$20,000.

Commissioner Simpkins said they have to do things in a business manner and the County was partnering with them. The County was coming to the table and they should have had a number that the City of Quincy was agreeing to contribute so they would have known exactly what was being contributed toward the Black Heritage Cultural and Education Organization Scholarship and toward the FAMU Foundation Scholarship. The County should have those

numbers from the City of Quincy because when we leave, they were saying that they approve the \$71,000 because they do not know what the agreement was with the City of Quincy.

Commissioner Green said the transparency was very important and going forward, as Commissioner Simpkins has stated, they have to have it lined up (like what was presented to them at the meeting) before now so they would know what they were doing. He said he thought they approved the general budget for the event but they do need to know who was giving what and to what extent because they did not want to run into these problems continuously every year every time there was an event. He said there were hiccups last time they had this event. He said they have to perfect the way they were doing this because there were vendors that have provided services who had to spend money to make money. They have to get the vendors taken care of like tomorrow. It was not their fault that their due diligence was not done. He said they had to move this forward and take care of the vendors. He said things had to be done a little more different with more transparency.

Commissioner Holt said the items have to be paid and they want to pay them, bottom line. They need to stand by what they say, they budgeted the money and can pay for the items. That was not it. She added as things change, to send an email to the Commissioners. She also said they have done this and the Tourist Development Council does it. They did a Bass Tournament and set aside \$25,000 in the past for events. These vendors need to be paid in a timely manner. They need to take care of their housekeeping and need to keep moving.

Commissioner Simpkins said the agenda request they have listed the Foundation Scholarship, the Heritage Cultural, the DRS Transportation, the band transportation and Born2BeAMan. She said the marketing, advertising, the video production, because there was not a request for that and the Black History Parade and Festival material. She then asked if everything except what was listed on the Agenda had been paid.

Mr. Dixon said some were paid and the rest was being held up was what he understood. He said this was what they requested them to bring before the Board and that was what they have done. He said as he understood, the checks were written but they had no idea, they thought certain, as he read their Procurement Purchasing policy, they were within their rights. However, to get people paid, this was what the Clerk requested and he was bringing it before them because he did not take kindly to people not being paid and there was no given reason other than what has been said.

Commissioner Simpkins said if they approve this that is being held up, were there other items were being held up, how is that going to be cleared? So, when they leave tonight...

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
March 21, 2023-Regular Board Meeting

Mr. Dixon asked Georgette Daniels, Assistant County Administrator, if he was missing something or if he was quoting it right that this was what the Clerk wished to be brought before the Board.

Ms. Daniels, Assistant County Administrator, said this was what they wished to bring before the Board because this was donations or reimbursements for expenses, whatever and it was not vendors that provided goods and services to the County like they paid for the media board. This was going to individual groups and the Clerk wanted to clarify that these items have been approved by the Board of County Commissioners and that they would not be making any other payment related to Black History Month until these things were clarified.

Commissioner Simpkins asked Ms. Daniels the actual vendors for actual services, the Clerk was willing to pay and Ms. Daniels said some have already been made and this came up. Commissioner Simpkins said currently the only thing that was being held up was the information on the agenda request.

Mr. Dixon said all payments inclusive of those were being held up until...

Commissioner NeSmith said he was confused. With the option they have as far as the FAMU Foundation, the Heritage and Education Scholarship, the DRS Transportation, Gadsden County high school band transportation and Born2BeAMan, those five entities that were on the agenda...

Mr. Dixon said yes.

Chair NeSmith said regarding the other items that were not on the agenda, will they have to come back and Mr. Dixon said no. He asked if these five were the only ones that were addressed.

Mr. Dixon asked Ms. Daniels to repeat the language the Clerk's Office used.

Ms. Daniels said these were more in line with a donation or reimbursement and not for goods and services that the County received. She said what she received along with the Administrator was until those things were approved by the Board, there would be no other payments made relating to Black History Month.

Commissioner Hinson said to be transparent as well, these were not donations, they were expenditures.

Commissioner Holt said they were.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
March 21, 2023-Regular Board Meeting

Commissioner Hinson continued and said they were expenses and expenditures, was something they spent, not that someone gave to them. He said when he first heard "donation" he thought about someone giving them money. He said his assumption was they were \$11,000 over-budget. The BOCC said \$60,000 and the County Administrator spent \$71,000 and that meant the Administrator over-spent. He said in looking at it, it was a budget issue. They did not stay within the confines of the budget. If they had stayed within the budget, there would not be this problem. This is called being fiscal responsible. He said they had the same problem two weeks ago with Senior Services. They gave money to them to pay for outreach and they paid other things. The Seniors were unable to go on an out of town trip because of what the Administration did not do, not the Board. The Board gave money to Senior Services. He said they were beating around the bush. The issue was that he needs budget training because apparently everything he touches, he overspends without Board approval. He said last year there was the same problem. It was like he did not care. He said to forget about the County Administrator, to let it go, it was their right to be fiscally responsible as a Board and could not run the County as a renegade. He said by law, if the Board approved it, it was legal. He said there should be a list of things he should not be doing, bring it to the Board and let them know this was some of the things that they would like to spend the money on. Then the Board could approve that list and him follow within that list. He said he did not ask for much, but he asked for transparency.

Chair NeSmith said point well taken.

Commissioner Holt said to give the Administrator a chance to respond. The Administrator said he was not going to respond to that.

Commissioner Hinson said he would love for him to respond.

Mr. Dixon said as a response, that line item has (then asked Ms. Daniels how much money). Ms. Daniels said the overall budget that the BOCC approved for all events was \$180,000 and that included Christmas, Veterans' Day celebration, Fourth of July, Black History Month, Women's' History Month, and a variety of special events.

Commissioner Hinson said if someone went back and looked at the tape, rewind for about 5 minutes, it was stated \$60,000.

Chair NeSmith said he will follow-up with that.

Commissioner Hinson said the only reason he said that was because it was stated that it was \$60,000.

Commissioner Green said they could stay there for 30-40 minutes but at the end of the day, whether budgeted, mis-budgeted, over-budgeted, or under budgeted, however budgeted, they had to pay the vendors. He said he was in approval they pay their bill, including everything on the outline so they could retain their good credit and was his motion.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO PAY THE BILLS TO RETAIN THEIR GOOD CREDIT AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND.

Commissioner Simpkins said if they were looking at the item and see FAMU Foundation Scholarship \$12,000, then it looks to be giving a donation. She felt it should have been laid out to say for the performance of the Marching 100 and that was the fee. Black Heritage Cultural and Education Organization Scholarship, laying what services were being provided and that was where the problem lies. What was presented to the Board looked like the County was giving donations, not paying vendors. It should have laid out what services were provided by each of the organizations and did not think they would be at this point had that been done for the Clerk. She also felt that was something they should see as well. When she saw the number for the Heritage was it the County saying they were providing scholarships or providing for their consultation and the services that the Cultural committee provided, were we paying for that, that should have been listed. She understood they needed to pay bills but at the same time, they were the stewards of the citizens monies and it was OK for them to know exactly what was going on, how the funds were being spent and she wanted to know because she was sitting there and she was a taxpayer also. She said if she was sitting on the other end, she would want to know as well, so it was OK if they took a few minutes to let the citizens know exactly what was going on. She said Black History Month was great and everybody enjoyed it but they need to make sure they were being totally transparent in listing the information and if all of that was listed as to what services were being provided, she did not think they would have to have this discussion.

Mr. Dixon said they will present to each of them the notes that were presented to the Clerk.

Mr. Hinson said he believed in paying people, but at the same time, there are some things that just could not be done. It was frivolous, irresponsible and despicable in a sense when things were being done that were not decent and in order. He said they put a budget out there and it was their job, citizens wanted them to talk things out, not just pass stuff, especially when a budget was given for \$60,000 and it was overspent, it should be asked. If the City of Quincy does not (pay), it would mean that the County will have to incur all the costs. Their Board may say to forget about it and the County will have to eat the costs. This wss about being fiscally responsible.

Commissioner Green said when he made the motion, he was not finished and was why he stated discussion would be necessary because to be clear, not that he wanted to rush through

it, but these things have already taken place. That was why he was adamant about making sure they were taking care of the things that have already taken place and being responsible for paying their bills. But the discussion was duly noted and needed that this should not have happened, the transparency has to be there because they were guardians and stewards. Commissioner Simpkins made it very clear and just to be noted, he wanted them to pay what had already been out there so they do not have undoing bills with vendors and the next time we need the vendors, they did not need them to say 'We're not going to deal with Gadsden County because they don't pay their bills'. It was not the vendors fault they were here; it was their fault meaning they should have already requested all of this individually before now. He said he was not there to throw rocks or to bring someone down. He did want them to be transparent in reference to what they were doing and having it outlined to the "T" if possible. He felt the Administrator knew how each of them felt about what has happened.

Commissioner Holt said she was ready to move on but Black History Month was in February and there was not one question about this item that one Commissioner could not have asked before now. It happens on a lot of items in the budget. You pick up the phone, call the attorney, call the administrator so she asked that they not appear as if they were innocent, they were not innocent of anything. They could call at any time. She said they were not innocent in those conversations because there was an open door with the people they hire. There were two employees. She said to vote and pay the bills. She said there was absolutely nothing gained by doing this kind of criticism in public. Because there are vendors that will tell you they do not deal with Gadsden County simply because of the way the meetings are ran and they will tell you that. They needed to stop. If they were going to sit here and throw innuendos at this type of thing, then do it after the meeting.

Commissioner Simpkins said she wanted to be clear, she was not throwing any innuendos. When she took this office, she said she would be open and transparent with the citizens. If she did not have the information, then she could not ask questions about it. She said they were just receiving that particular item just before the meeting so some of the questions they could not ask until they got there. She did not think that any of them was throwing any rocks, as for her, she was not. She said she meets with Mr. Dixon on a regular basis and calls him because most of the time she would forget to ask something in the office and would call him back. Had she had that paper, she would have had that conversation with him but since she had just received it, she had to ask the questions today.

Commissioner Hinson said he had to say he just received the list a few minutes ago. When someone said they had a chance to look over it, that was not true. He wanted to do what was right and there was nothing wrong with doing what was right. He did not think he was rude, but asking questions that make you feel uncomfortable when you know, he could not take advantage of people's money and knowing that he was going with the crowd because it made him feel good but sometimes you have to stand alone.

Chair NeSmith said he thought the point was made that they did just receive it. He said he did not go in the community and talk about Mr. Dixon because his life was so complex as it was. If anything, Mr. Dixon needed to find time to talk with him, he was the County Commissioner.

Chair NeSmith said point well made.

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

16b. Approval of Settlement Offer

Mr. Knowles explained this was from the shade meeting they had a few weeks ago with the ambulance roll-over with the physician that happened on I-10. The fiscal impact is the deductible of \$10,000. It was approved by their insurance counsel and he requested it be approved.

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

CLERK OF COURT

17. Updates

The Deputy Clerk had nothing to report.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

18. Updates

Mr. Dixon said they have upcoming Rural County Days at the Capitol next month and were accepting any ideas on what the presentation could look like. He stated they would send out the right date.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

19. Updates

There was nothing to report from Mr. Knowles himself but Commissioner Hinson had something to discuss with him.

Commissioner Hinson stated he had called Mr. Knowles earlier in the day and asked about the internet cafes/slot machine places. Mr. Knowles stated they were illegal. He stated there are municipalities and counties that have enacted their own ordinances to forbid it. Commissioner Hinson said he received several phone calls concerning this and was the reason he brought it

up. He stated the Board had addressed this twice and informed it was illegal. He stated it is Florida Statute 849.08.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

20. Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2

Commissioner Simpkins said on Friday at 4:00 PM there would be a bridge renaming ceremony in Jamieson.

She asked Mr. Dixon if the RAISE grant had been applied for. Mr. Dixon stated no they did not apply for it. Commissioner Simpkins stated there was a grant out there called Public Works Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant. It can be used for acquisition and development of land and improvements for use in Public Works or other types of development facilities like water and sewer system improvement operations and construction or expansion of facilities for workforce development. She believed it was something that they need to take a look at. She stated DEO with the Division of Community Development, the CDBG, was due by May 5th and webinar would be on April 5th.

She stated she had been noticing people putting household goods on the side of the road. She asked if there are certain days that Waste Pro was picking them up. Mr. Dixon stated people were reading about the bulk item pick up and they had asked them not to put it out early, but people will and are putting it out early. Mr. Dixon said for those that have Waste Pro, they are able to call them and have them pick up their bulk items.

Commissioner Simpkins stated their collaboration with the municipalities was very essential to the growth in the county. She would like for them to continue to build those relationships.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she was disheartened when she found out that the contract with USDA would not be renewed. She stated they have to take a look at their facilities. She would like to put back on the schedule their Strategic Planning meeting so that they can address their organizational charts to make sure they have the right people in the right places. She also stated they need to schedule a time for them to workshop with the Gadsden County Development Council because in order for them to be successful, they cannot do this on their own.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt stated she spoke with Ms. Walker about a situation she had when she went by ambulance to the hospital due to her being ill. When the doctor discharged her, the ambulance could not take her where she wanted to go. She said she brought it up with Mr. Dixon and he researched it. She stated she got back with the family and told them that when the doctor discharged them, it does not say transport on the form. They are not able to

override what a doctor tells them. What she is hoping to do is that they can look into this with Capital Regional Medical Center and look at the hospital, emergency room, and the contract. That way they could go ahead and put that on the table. It could bring everyone up to date on that contract.

Commissioner Simpkins stepped out at 8:10 pm

Commissioner Holt stated that when Commissioner Simpkins was speaking, she had written in her notes that they do need to rotate to the cities and meet with them. She stated in the past when she was Chair, they have met with the City of Havana and Gretna to see how they can partner with each other and coexist.

She stated they know they are fiscally restrained, and was worried about what was going on in the legislature and what bills will be passed. She stated she was worried and the people should be worried too about what was going on in the Legislature. She stated many of the bills were going to pass, so if there was anything that needed to be said, people should be calling them and saying it now. She wanted the public to know that when those laws are passed, there is nothing that the Board of County Commissioners could do other than follow the law. She said by law, the public is able to call any legislator, not just the ones in their district.

Commissioner Simpkins returned 8:13 pm

Commissioner Holt said there are 38 fiscally constrained counties. When they are told to take over bridges, the County does not get those kinds of taxes to repair a bridge, and they have to ask for money from the larger counties. The large counties would get upset and feel like they have to babysit. They are the receiver counties and the large counties are the donor counties.

Commissioner Holt thanked everyone and said they were moving pretty good. She stated people are still watching them, and when they watch them, they want to know why they are arguing and not voting. They do not realize what they do. She stated Commissioner Simpkins brought up a good point about the grants and that they need to apply for them.

Chairman Nesmith asked Mr. Dixon where they were with the Grants Department. Mr. Dixon said they were probably going to interview some people in the next few weeks. He stated they are hard to come by and he knows grants are out there but they have to be mindful of the grants that they apply for. They cannot apply for every grant but he is hoping soon they will have people they can connect with in the next week.

Commissioner Holt said that in order to have a good Grants Department, they have to have good Grants Coordinators. She stated the budget is coming up and when they start talking about the budget and hiring extra people, to not think that they are going to get the same

thing of all their wants because the money is not going to be there. They have to cut back on what that want in order to get more money, then they are able to get what they want.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5

Commissioner Green said if anyone from Reed Street Community was watching, to please contact him directly. He stated he did receive the letter with the petition. He said on May 20th, the Shiloh Community will be having an Emancipation Day event from 1 to 5 PM. He hoped they could do some type of partnership. He stated he will ask the County Administrator about the do's and don'ts of what they can and cannot do in regards to providing services to that community.

Commissioner Green stated he also received an invite from librarian Ms. Shannon Powell. They are having a story book carnival at the main library in Quincy, and he had been asked to be one of the readers. He said it is on April 26th at 10AM.

Commissioner Green asked about the ditches being cleaned, especially Shiloh Road and Spooner Road. He stated if Public Works could, to go out and take a look at the old trash that is clogging up.

Commissioner Green asked about updates on positions like Public Works Director, Budget Director, Economic Development Director and if they have been filled already. Mr. Dixon said that interviews for Public Works Director are currently happening. He said they are looking for folks to fill the Budget Director position. They have not found anyone that meets the needs of the office. They are starting to not only advertise but to recruit for these positions.

Commissioner Green stated he had the opportunity again to speak to a few people in his district that utilize the Wellness Center and if there is anything that they can do to help that program, he believed it was a necessity. Commissioner Green wanted to make a motion to ask the County Administrator to put it on the agenda to give \$45,000 to the Wellness Center. Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Dixon if the Wellness Center could still apply for the same money they applied for. Mr. Dixon said he was not sure but he would think that they would apply. Commissioner Holt asked if they move money over there and they do not get the grant, how would that affect them? Mr. Dixon said he did not know how it would affect them, and what message it would send. Commissioner Green said from his understanding, the Clerk stated that they do have the funding. Mr. Dixon said they have funds that they can direct anywhere they would like, he was not speaking of that funding authority, he was speaking on the Area Agency. Commissioner Green said that his urgency was from both programs having the same funding issues. He stated he was aware that they had given \$60,000 to the Senior Services and they should be able to do something for others as well.

Commissioner Holt said she was not debating the point of bringing it back, the reason she brought it up was because of the Area Agency making their decision. She stated that it is not a problem with giving money to the other organizations, but the concern is how does the Area Agency look at that? That was the only reason she had not called the U.S. Department of Elder Affairs was because she was waiting to see what AAA is going to do. She stated AAA is a contractor. She stated all they really need is a date, when are they going to make a decision.

Commissioner Simpkins said prior to voting for Elderly Affairs, the request was made so that they are not setting a precedent because of dealing directly with the seniors. She said they really are not setting a precedent as it relates to nonprofits as a whole because of dealing with the Senior Citizens. She does not believe that giving the donation for the Wellness Center would have an effect on the County when they apply for the RFP.

Commissioner Holt said if they were going to choose one or the other, when looking at giving out funding, it's going to be absolute. That would be the problem. In this case, if the Foundation is set up, then they are the competitor against the Wellness Center. She stated they are competing for this entity for funding.

Commissioner Green said he understood the possibility of the comment made, but his focus is that they do not know how long it would take for them to give the money to any other organizations. Mr. Dixon said they would know how long it would take and said it would be around July 1st. Commissioner Green said he does not want to see any program that is beneficial to the county fail. If they can help, then help.

Commissioner Green asked for a vote, Commissioner Hinson said they did not have to vote to place it on the agenda. Commissioner Green said because they were asking for money, he would like to do a vote.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER GREEN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO PUT ON THE AGENDA TO GIVE \$45,000 TO THE WELLNESS CENTER.

Commissioner Eric Hinson, Vice-Chair, District 1

Commissioner Hinson said they went to Legislative Day last week. He stated he thought that for the next few months they need to have a continuance of infrastructure workshops. He stated it is too much money for them to be relaxing and chilling. He said they also need to address the housing crisis as well. Also, they need to start having budget workshops soon. He said they need to focus on infrastructure. He stated a couple years ago, they approved a Grants Coordinator and they have not hired anybody yet. He said if Gretna was able to find almost \$4 million dollars, they should be able to make it happen without excuses. He said they created positions two years ago and they still have not been filled. He said his heart is in it, and

he would like for everyone else's heart to be in it as well. He asked the Chairman to have them schedule budget workshops so they can finish the budget well in advance this time.

Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, Chair, District 3

Chairman Nesmith stated 2022 was great but 2023 will be outstanding. He stated he was pleased to see new nets on the basketball goals at Rosedale Park.

Commissioner Holt said this year the County received \$55 Million for Infrastructure. She stated they have to have staff to take care of the money. If they do not get an Economic Development person, she would advise to bring it back to the Board. If they want to raise the money to get the kind of people they need, then they can put it on themselves. So that way they can decide if they want to hire those people or not.

Chairman NeSmith informed Commissioner Green on where they stood with the Executive Director for Economic Development. Chairman Nesmith said he spoke with the Director of HR and was asked to inform them that they have another two weeks on cycle and if they do not receive enough traction, they will bring it back and see if it needs tweaking. He stated they have received applicants but they need persons that have specialization in Economic Development.

Commissioner Simpkins said that is why they need to look at their organizational chart, who they have on staff and what are their specialties. Then they can come back and say these are the positions that they need to add.

Commissioner Hinson said Commissioner Simpkins has been bringing it up every week but they have not had the workshop on it yet.

Commissioner Hinson asked for a list of all the accomplishments. He stated they have \$55 million dollars, and that is great, but they have more money that they have not touched yet and they need to be more aggressive.

Commissioner Simpkins stepped out 8:50 pm.

Commissioner Green said he taught 2 people last week how to play pickle ball and it can be a health improvement. He stated next year he wants to do a camp.

Commissioner Simpkins returned 8:52 pm

Chairman Nesmith informed Commissioner Hinson and Commissioner Simpkins the strategic planning meeting is being scheduled.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
March 21, 2023-Regular Board Meeting

Chair Nesmith talked about the new government complex with the 52 acres the County just purchased. He stated to Commissioner Hinson that as soon as they get through infrastructure, they need to talk about what that building is going to look like.

Commissioner Green stepped out 8:54 pm

Chair Nesmith talked about having a wellness center, gym, and walking trail at the new building. Chairman Nesmith stated they need to have someone that works for the Board that is constantly following these bills so that they know what positions they need to take moving forward.

Commissioner Hinson said what Chairman Nesmith said was right, it was the best time to do it using ARPA money and it would not affect the general fund.

Commissioner Green returned 8:58 p.m.

Chairman Nesmith asked Commissioner Simpkins to repeat a quote she stated earlier to close out the meeting.

Commissioner Simpkins said "If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together. Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress, working together is success".

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:59 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**KIMBLIN NESMITH, 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 21, 2023 AT 6:00 PM, THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

Present: Kimblin NeSmith, Chair, District 3
Eric Hinson, Vice-Chair, District 1
Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2
Brenda Holt, District 4
Ronterious “Ron” Green, District 5
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk
Adriana Quijada, Clerk Secretary to the Boards

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Nesmith called the meeting to order. Commissioner Green provided the invocation then led into the Pledge of Allegiance to the US Flag.

Amendments and Approval of Agenda

Mr. Dixon added Item 4A Approval of Lease with Senator Simon and Item 4B Approval of Letters of Support for broadband for internet providers seeking funding from Department of Economic Opportunity to consent agenda.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER GREEN, 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 PRESENTED.

1. **Ratification Memo**
2. **BOCC Meeting/Workshop Minutes:**
 - a. February 9, 2023 Workshop
 - b. February 20, 2023 Special Meeting
 - c. February 22, 2023 Workshop
 - d. March 7, 2023 BOCC Meeting
3. **Approval of Johnson Controls Suppression Gas Systems Deficiencies Proposal**

4. **Approval of Resolution 2023-11 and the State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program (SHIP) Local Housing Assistance Plan FY(s) 2023-2024, 2024-2025 and 2025-2026**

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

The Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners welcomes and encourages public participation at all meetings of the Board. Citizens are free to speak for up to three (3) minutes on non-agenda items. Public comments and participation are also encouraged for items on the agenda. Additionally, if you are unable to attend a meeting in person, comments from the Public can also be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.org until noon on the date of the meeting. Comments submitted after the deadline, but prior to the meeting, will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting. Citizens are further encouraged to participate via Zoom using the credentials on the County's website. The Board's meetings are also broadcast live on the Board's Facebook page.

Chair Nesmith read aloud the above statement.

James Hatton, 170 Tara Way Havana FL, 32333

Mr. Hatton appeared before the board to discuss educating the community regarding prevention and sustaining natural medicine to a high scale.

_Sherri Taylor, 217 W Clark Street Quincy, FL

Ms. Taylor appeared before the board asking for funding for the Gadsden Wellness Center. She stated she did not see it as competition in regards to getting funding. She saw it as a way to put out the best possible program for their seniors. She stated not one penny that would hopefully be allocated tonight would go towards anyone's salary or utility bill. She stated she would love to upgrade the computer center.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

5. **Approval of Funding for the Gadsden Wellness Center-Our Future Inc.**

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. He stated it was seeking the Board's approval for funding of the Gadsden Wellness Center. It is a nonprofit that provides senior services. They were recipients of the contract taken back from GSS. This nonprofit had come before the board twice asking for funding. Mr. Dixon stated it has been the Administrator's position that the competition in seeking the funds was a matter they should address.

Commissioner Green stated he had an opportunity to visit the location a couple of times and the hot meals were great, as well as the energy.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE THE SECOND. THERE WAS DISCUSSION.

Commissioner Holt stated she was not opposed to seniors getting services, she was opposed to the process. She stated when it was created, it was created incorrectly. The other funds could have been applied for other than the ones that were taken from the Senior Citizen Center. She stated all nonprofits can apply for other programs, and it was not necessarily the only place where they could have gotten funds. The Board decided to set up a foundation in order for the Board to have an umbrella over all of the Senior Citizens Programs, and that was what they needed to stick with. That way they did not have citizens protesting and competing for funds against each other. If they are going to do this, they needed to look at what they were going to do with the foundation. Commissioner Holt stated she liked the building, but had a problem with the process. She stated the senior citizens deserved a better opportunity to have a say so in the \$87,000 being moved. If they were willing to sign an agreement saying that they would not compete against the County Commission or the Board for any funds, then that made more sense.

Commissioner Hinson stated he believed in public/private partnership. He stated number 11 pretty much highlighted exactly what Commissioner Holt was saying to him. He stated what she was talking about was in the clause. The non-compete clause states where non-profits who received any type of funding from the Gadsden County BOCC agree not to compete against the County when applying for any local state, federal foundation, private or other grants or funding as it related to senior services. He stated they could expand their capacity working with the public and nonprofits. He said they should exclude number 11 because they would open a can of worms.

Commissioner Green stated that he did look at the agenda item and saw all the agenda qualifications. He stated he disagreed with Commissioner Hinson due to the fact that it was something standard and needed to go across the board to all nonprofits. He stated there should be a collaboration between the centers as it related to the fundings out there to ensure they would not be going after the same money. He wanted to be able to make sure they get the money they need. Commissioner Green stated he did not agree with the process 100%, however, it has been done.

Chairman Nesmith said he visited the facility and was blown away and proud. He stated his position is not going to change from what he had originally stated. His position is that they need to develop a process because the key to maintaining a great program that had already been started is sustainability. He stated the Wellness Center was doing phenomenal work, but a

process allows them to receive a proposal that stated all the information and issues that were being addressed. The sustainability piece is very important because they do not want the program to start receiving funding for a number of months, then have to go back in a few months or the next year.

Commissioner Simpkins stated that the seniors that attend the wellness centers are residents and tax payers. She stated what they should be saying is how can their newly developed elderly care department work with the wellness center. When they give funds, there should be scope of service. If Ms. Taylor was willing to work with the county's Department of Elderly Affairs for her to see that those deliverables were being met with those funds that the county had provided, then there should not be a problem. She stated she was all for accountability with taxpayers' money. That is where the Director of Elderly Affairs comes in, and looking and making sure that those deliverables were being met.

Commissioner Holt asked if there is a letter of agreement stating that the Wellness Center will withdraw its bid for funds. Mr. Dixon stated not to his knowledge.

Ms. Taylor stated she had not signed the letter. She asked how would she know what they apply for and if there was a listing of grants that they were applying for so that she did not cross over and apply for those grants. She asked if the county is qualified to apply for a grant like the OAA Grant. She stated she knows that they were formulating a nonprofit under their organization but does that make them qualified or not qualified because they are still the government. She asked if she was competing with the county or another nonprofit because only nonprofits could apply for the OAA. She stated she did intend to apply for the OAA because she did not think the county could.

Commissioner Holt stated that was something to be worked out before the vote. If they are going to give the money then they must withdraw. If they are not going to give the money, then apply. It would have to be one or the other. She asked if they do receive funding, were they going to give the money back to the county. If they apply and get funding, give the \$45,000 back.

Chairman Nesmith asked Ms. Taylor if she had met with the County Administrator to discuss ways they could work together and get her questions answered. Ms. Taylor answered no. She wanted to know how not to compete with them.

Commissioner Hinson stated for proper protocol, no one should address a single commissioner, they need to address the Chairman. He asked if they were a 501c3 yet, which Mr. Dixon answered no. Commissioner Hinson stated it would sometimes take 6 months to a year to get the 501c3 status. So, if Ms. Taylor filed that, that means they could exclude her and someone

else in the community could apply for it. He stated he did not want to stop it because he loved helping seniors.

Commissioner Holt stated it had not been settled by the Board as to how that would work as far as the withdrawal, there was no withdrawal letter. She stated if they were going to follow this, will funds be returned. It had not been discussed. If they were going to get the funds, which was fine if that was what Ms. Taylor was wanting to do, but if the Wellness Center got the funds, and they got the same funds that the Board was applying for, will the \$45,000 be given back? Those were the things that concerned her.

Commissioner Green stated Chairman Nesmith made a great comment asking Ms. Taylor if she had met with the County Administrator. He stated they need to move forward and restate the motion. He stated there should be a complete understanding from both ends on what this means. Commissioner Green stated the motion should be that the funds should not be distributed until there is an agreement from both parties. He would like for them to move forward, and he would like the funds not to be distributed until there was an agreement with the County and the Wellness Center.

Mr. Dixon stated they need to add a claw back clause into the document.

Commissioner Hinson stated number 12 stated the agreement shall not be amended or extend itself in writing signed by both parties. So, when she agreed to that, no matter what happened after that, she could not apply for anything.

Chairman Nesmith stated his position is still the same. He stated they had a request for funds, but they had not worked out the process yet, which is why they had these kinds of issues. If they had a process, they would not have these types of discussions.

Commissioner Simpkins stated this was not the first time they had this discussion and there was a workshop on this. She stated they should have made sure all concerns were addressed to the County Administrator beforehand. She stated to go ahead and put it into a vote if Ms. Taylor is fine with the contract.

CHAIRMAN NESMITH CALLED FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER GREEN	YES
COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	NO
CHAIRMAN NESMITH	NO

MOTION PASSED 3-2

6. Approval and Award of RFP 23-03 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Mr. Dixon presented the above item.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND.

Commissioner Simpkins stated this particular grant is \$750,000, and they were spending \$102,000 to administer the grant. She stated they need to utilize what they have in house. She stated they were spending over 10% of the grant. That was quite a bit to be paying on a \$750,000 grant. She stated they could use some of that funding to go towards the services for the citizens versus giving it out to a consulting firm. She stated they need to take a look at how much they were spending for someone to administer. She wanted to believe they had staff in house that could administer. If not, then it may be cheaper for them to do an OPS. They do not have to pay \$102,00 to administer.

Mr. Dixon stated those grants require certain backgrounds and certain qualifications. He stated they did not have those type of qualifications in the house.

Mr. Stiell appeared before the board and stated they were approaching budget season and to keep that in mind as they move forward. Since there was so much required for that one particular grant, staff would not be able to adequately provide all the data and meet all the requirements. He stated that was only one grant of several that the housing department had. They don't want to lose money, so the best course of action would be either to hire a Grant Administrator, which they had received applicants for, however, none were appropriate for the position. Or, to reach out to a third-party consultant to administer the grant.

Commissioner Green asked about the grant writer positions, so that they could have someone that could be in the house. He stated they may want to reconsider the advertising for a grant writer.

Mr. Dixon stated they were constantly looking for folks to fill the position. He stated that just this week they brought in 2 Code Enforcement Officers. He stated they offered someone a Grant Writer position as part time at almost \$100,000 and they said no. It was not from a lack of search, and were looking for people on a daily basis.

Commissioner Hinson stated the Board approved a Grant Writer position 2 years ago. He stated it was not just the salary they were looking at, but rather also the health insurance, retirement, etc. He stated they need to help out people within the community not all the way in California. Commissioner Hinson stated he did not see the requirements for the position and if it was properly advertised. He stated he did not have the documentation that Commissioner Simpkins had, so he was not sure how he was able to do anything.

Commissioner Holt stated she sat on the housing board. You have to have a specialty for those areas. She stated they also need to have somewhat of that for FDOT. She stated if they wanted to have a general Grant Writer, they can check on those things but they would not be able to write all those grants and do the follow up on the grants. She stated this is something they can do on another time, they needed to vote on this item.

Commissioner Simpkins stated they were looking at the administrative services, and they were going to discuss that next week as it relates to positions. She stated they can keep the money in house, and to make sure that the staff they have there may have the expertise. She stated it does not take a rocket scientist for the Grant Writer position. She stated the \$102,000 of the \$750,000 could be used towards housing for citizens.

Commissioner Hinson stated it was only fair for the Board to look at this and make sure that each Commissioner gets that information in hand first. He would like to have the information before voting on item.

Commissioner Green stated he had an opportunity to speak with Ms. Sonya Burns over housing. He stated he was going to ask for the missing pieces or if it was completed. He wanted to know the time sensitivity because they do not want to lose the money.

Mr. Stiell appeared before the board and stated it was somewhat time sensitive.

Commissioner Green asked although the information is not there, if Mr. Stiell could give a breakdown of the information so that the Commissioners could make a sound decision.

Mr. Stiell apologized for them not receiving it in the packet. He stated attachment A should have been the award letter from DEO, received February 10th, 2023, stating that they had 45 days to respond with a signed agreement to DEO.

Commissioner Holt stated it was online and she read it, anyone could have read it. Citizens read it and called her asking when they were going to get the housing money. The Concern was were they going to send the money back? No, so let's vote.

Commissioner Simpkins stated they were not applying for the grant; they had already been awarded the grant. Her concern had been the cost for administering the grant. She wanted to make her point that \$102,000 on a \$750,000 grant was a lot and she would like to see them bring it down so that they were keeping more money in house.

Commissioner Hinson asked where was it stating the time frame, he did not have it in his book. Commissioner Green stated if he was not mistaken, Ms. Sonya Burns was responsible for actually writing or applying for the grant. It was staff that applied for the grant and got it. He

wanted to make sure that they do give proper thanks to the Housing Department for even applying for this grant.

Mr. Stiell appeared before the board and read aloud the qualifications stated on the document. Mr. Stiell stated if they start at page 11 of 90, that was the start of the RFP.

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

7. **Approval of Task Order with Alday Howell Engineering, Inc. for Survey and Design of CR 274 (Ben Bostic Road-Project)**

Mr. Dixon presented the above item.

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

8. **Approval of Resolution 2023-010 Authorizing the Transfer and Accepting Title to Certain Real Property, Subject to the Conditions and Environmental Assessment Restrictions for Property Donated by the City of Quincy for the M0026 EMS Quincy Project**

Mr. Dixon presented the above item.

Attorney Knowles stated DEO contacted him and wanted to make tweaks regarding the resolution. One of the main concerns was that the county not be held to take title to the property should this property not pass environmental review. Phase 2 Environmental Inspection was a very in-depth process. They had to check with Native American tribes. If they wanted it to be approved and signed by DO, that would take more time. In the interest in time, they remove that and there were changes in the language that address not having to take titles should it not pass the 24CFR parts required to have under the HUD guidelines. In order for them to receive those grant funds, they must approve their language. It was not a substantial change to the document.

Commissioner Holt stated they need to approve something that they can see.

Attorney Knowles stated he could read what the changes were. He asked to approve the revised document.

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

9. **Approval of Funding to Partner with the City of Gretna for the May Day Celebration**

Mr. Dixon presented the above item.

Ms. Diane Forman appeared before the board regarding May Day Celebration plans. She stated the celebration would be on May 5th. They have 3 artists which would be Cupid, TK Soul, and Carly Taylor. She stated they did submit a budget to the county for \$25,000 to help with the May Day Celebration.

Commissioner Holt suggested to give the 6 towns the same amount of money. If one of the towns did not have a celebration, then the money would just stay in their account. That way when they award money, they were being fair to all the towns.

Commissioner Green asked Ms. Forman what was the overall budget for the event. Ms. Forman said they had not budgeted out everything, but they were close to \$75,000. Commissioner Green asked Mr. Dixon what they had categorized in their budget for events. Mr. Dixon stated they had enough money for all municipalities.

Commissioner Simpkins stated when they are looking at this, are they looking at special events, or the proposed budget for Bicentennial? Mr. Dixon said they are looking at the special events budget.

Commissioner Hinson stated he concurred what Holt said about giving all municipalities \$25,000. He mentioned moving money to the Havana Community Development Corporation. Commissioner Simpkins stated they had a \$200,00 budget, needed a point of clarification.

Commissioner Green stated to stick with the agenda items. He wanted to vote on this item and move on.

Commissioner Holt stated if they voted to approve \$25,00 for each town, that locked it in and it would be over.

Mr. Dixon said it was an effort to establish relationships with counties. Commissioner Nesmith stated they needed to get through the requests then come back to this. He stated now that they had established those relationships with the cities, they could go back and set up a system.

Commissioner Hinson said they should amend the whole thing, and give each municipality the \$25,000. He stated he could make a motion to approve the special events funding to partner with all the cities and towns.

Mr. Dixon stated if that would become the proposal of the board, it would require a budget amendment.

Commissioner Simpkins said she agreed with funding all municipalities, however, that would be something that they would need to bring back to the table. She stated one of the requests was

more than \$25,000 so they still would not be doing it across the board. She wanted to believe they can approve this and have the vote at the next meeting.

Commissioner Hinson stated his motion would be \$25,00 for all municipalities.

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

10. Approval of Funding to Partner with the City of Greensboro for the May Day Celebration

Mr. Dixon presented the above item.

The town manager of Greensboro, Mr. Anderson, appeared before the board. He stated they were asking for \$8,000 in funding.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE \$8,000 FUNDING AND CHAIRMAN NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

11. Approval of Funding to Partner with the Town of Chattahoochee for the 4th of July Event

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. He stated they had asked for \$37,600.

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

Commissioner Green stated Lake Talquin has a celebration for 4th of July. He stated they do not get funding from the City of Quincy and wanted to know if they could get some type of stipend. He wanted to make sure they do not forget about that community as well.

12. Board Discussion and Direction regarding the Gadsden County Bicentennial Project Plan

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. He stated they wanted to get time frames for a Workshop so that they could go more in depth. They were looking at beginning the celebrations in June and taking them out through the summer into fall.

Commissioner Holt stated if they were looking at a kickstart in June, they need to start as soon as possible.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she would like to see community members to volunteer to assist with the planning. She stated she would like for them to reach out to community members.

Commissioner Hinson stated they could put funding to help the nonprofit out. He stated the staff did not have to be there and they could be finding money on infrastructure projects. Chairman Nesmith stated to schedule the workshop and invite those nonprofits.

Commissioner Green stated Commissioner Hinson made a great point, but it should have been done last year. He stated they were already in 2023 and they were behind.

Commissioner Holt stated if they were going to do this, it would be a little too late. She stated they could work this out at a workshop.

Commissioner Hinson stated he was adamant because now is the time to get more money than ever before, they need infrastructure in Gadsden County. He stated affordable housing was a must right now.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she agreed with Commissioner Hinson. She stated it would be a matter of deciding what event they would be a part of, and they need to look at the calendar for the different municipalities.

Mr. Dixon mentioned the outline to identify contacts in communities. He stated a rounded proposal was given of things they thought that needed to be happening and an idea of when they could happen. He stated they can skip months, and all the options are available.

Chairman Nesmith stated they have a Strategic Planning Workshop next week on the 11th. He asked Mr. Dixon to have a date for their Bicentennial Workshop.

CLERK OF COURT

13. Updates

Nothing to report.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

14. Updates

Mr. Dixon requested a proclamation for National Library Week to be presented at the April 18th Meeting.

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

Mr. Dixon stated they have upcoming Rural County days on April 25th. World County Day would be at the capitol on April 26th. He stated they would be starting the Relay for Life event at the track on April 28th.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

15. Updates

Attorney Knowles stated there was a change in their statute regarding advertisement. He stated they had a meeting recently canceled because of it not being advertised. He read aloud Florida Statute 50. 0311.

Commissioner Holt stated there was a time change for one of the meetings, it was at 11AM. She stated if they strayed away from the two Tuesdays, they would end up with a big problem.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

16. Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2

Commissioner Simpkins stated there is a form of professionalism that they want to display, but she also wanted to make sure that they were not so worried about people from other counties and how they look to them. They needed to make sure they were making the right decisions for their citizens here. If that would require additional discussion, then let it happen. She stated she had not seen any updates to their website. There needed to be a deadline of when Granicus was going to deliver services. Commissioner Simpkins stated that by the next meeting, they should know what was going on with the website. Mr. Dixon stated there would be an update on this by tomorrow. Commissioner Simpkins mentioned Point Milligan Road, there was trash that had been there for a couple of months now and she was requesting it to be picked up. She also requested a flyer to let her constituents know of pick-up dates in her district.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Dixon if he still had their department heads do their practice delivery, she stated they used to do that during the workshops. Mr. Dixon stated they had not done that ever since they canceled their everyday workshops. She stated it was great when they did that and it would come with some good information. She wanted to thank the work done for Ben Bostick Road. She also stated that they need a workshop for the hospital contract since they were getting into hurricane season. They must have a discussion with the hospital board. She stated they had just approved a contract for funding that has a no compete clause that would never work. She stated there would need to be a form; something to sign.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5

Commissioner Green mentioned the firefighter volunteer campaign. He stated they needed to follow through with some type of planning to recruit volunteers for the fire department. He wanted to set a time to speak with Mr. Dixon about the logistics of some things that they could bring before the board so that they could have a conversation about some incentives that they could possibly give to help recruit volunteers for all of their fire stations. He stated there was a

fish fry at Lasalle Leffall, where there was a new facility. He stated there was a lot of walking back and forth from the different facilities that were on that road. He said they needed to pay some toolage to see if it was possible to get sidewalks in that area on that road for safety preventions. He also mentioned the summer youth program. He stated it was great last year and they employed about 200 of their young people. He was looking forward to it and stated they needed to start having conversations about it. Commissioner Green stated he had received a call from Tallahassee commissioners asking if there were any events on May 20th. They were trying to put together a calendar for Leon, Gadsden, and Jackson. He stated if there was anybody listening that knew of an event on May 20th, to contact him so that they could include it on the calendar. He stated he knew there was an event on May 20th in the Shiloh community from 1PM to 5PM. They will crown their oldest male and oldest female in their community. Commissioner Green stated he was a huge advocate and team member for Relay for Life. He wanted to make sure they were on board for Relay for Life; it will be on the MLK track field. He also stated that on April 26th there would be a read along at 10AM at the Quincy Library. He was honored to be one of the readers for that event. He wanted to give thanks to Public Works or whoever was responsible for striping. Commissioner Green wanted to say congrats to Coach Willie Simmons, who renewed his contract with FAMU.

Commissioner Simpkins wanted to thank Public Works facilities that played a part of the bridge dedication. Commissioner Green asked for clarity on if they had a Public Works Director. Mr. Dixon said yes, they do have a Public Works Director and his name was Curtis Young.

Commissioner Eric Hinson, Vice-Chair, District 1

Commissioner Hinson mentioned bonuses. Mr. Dixon said they were working on it and they were ready to bring before him. Commissioner Hinson also asked Mr. Dixon what was the state of the fire department in Havana. Mr. Dixon stated that Chief Hood and Andre Walker, Fire Coordinator, were meeting with volunteers and city officials to figure out what they need. Commissioner Simpkins stated to take a look at Sheriff's Department and looking at incentives where they add the Dual Certification. It would give them numbers to work towards so that they could get their ratings up.

Commissioner Hinson stated they needed to keep in mind the housing and transportation infrastructure. He stated last week the Governor appointed Freddie Figgers to be the vice chairman or chairman. His wife, Natalie Figgers, was also appointed to the FAMU Board. He stated to make sure to invite him to the table because they could not bring business if they do not talk to him anyway.

Commissioner Holt stated she would not be present on the 11th. She asked Mr. Dixon if they could get where the funds were coming from under the line items. She also stated that the requests needed to be made during the budget season.

Commissioner Hinson wanted to add Havana and Midway to the agenda item for the next meeting.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 8:51PM.

Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, Chair, District 3

Chairman Nesmith asked Angela Sapp to come forward. Commissioner Sapp appeared before the Board. Ms. Sapp stated she appreciated the protocols that took place during the meeting. She stated she looked forward to the approval of the project on Pat Thomas Parkway.

Chairman Nesmith stated that they need to get the parks ready for the summer youth program. He asked Mr. Dixon where they were with Code Enforcements. Mr. Dixon stated they hired 2 code enforcements today. Chairman Nesmith stated he had the opportunity to go to Saint John's County and network with individuals regarding their Executive Director of Economic Development position. He stated that the person that qualified for the position asked Chairman Nesmith what was the stability like with the Board. He did not apply because of the history of the Gadsden County Board.

Commissioner Hinson stated they needed to stop talking negative in the eyes of the people. He stated they should not be discussing this in an open floor because it would make it seem as if they were the people from 20 years ago.

Commissioner Simpkins gave the following quote:

“There are no secrets to success. It is a result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure. “

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:09 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

KIMBLIN NESMITH, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP HELD IN AND
FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON APRIL 11, 2023
AT 12:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS
HAD, VIZ:**

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

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair NeSmith called the workshop to Order at 12:06 pm. Commissioner Hinson gave the invocation and Chair NeSmith led into the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Welcome and Introduction

Chair NeSmith welcomed everyone and said this was one of many strategic workshops to be held. He stated they would not be able to solve all the issues today but this was a beginning. They were going to need many workshops for a plan for the future of Gadsden County.

Commissioner Simpkins appeared at 12:08 pm.

The County Administrator welcomed everyone and listed the rules to be followed for the workshop and then introduced Justin Stiell, Growth Management Director. Mr. Stiell thanked everyone for being here and introduced Ellen Andrews, Senior Planner and Shaquan Cockran, Administrative Assistant, from the Building Department with the County.

2. Overview of Strategic Plan

Strategic Planning is organization’s process of defining its strategy, or direction, and making decisions on allocating its resources to pursue this strategy, including its capital and people. It determines where an organization is going over the next year or more and how it is going to get there.

2021 Priorities

What was discussed at last meeting:

- Public health, Safety, Quality of life
- Economic Development and Education
- Infrastructure and Transportation
- Environmental Stewardship

3. Identify and Changes to the Mission, Vision, Values and Priorities
Mission Statement

A mission statement should clearly define the purpose of the organization as well as the products and services to be offered.

Components of Mission Statement

Key market-who is target customer?

Contribution-what product or service do you provide to your customers?

Distinction-what makes your product or service unique...why should people care?

BOCC Mission Statement

“Building a better community by offering efficient, sustainable services, encouraging economic development, providing safety, and overall quality of life.”

Mr. Stiell asked the Commissioners to take 5 minutes to review the Mission Statement and make any changes they felt was necessary.

Mr. Dixon said partnering with cities to prevent single vision

Commissioner Green said Mission Statement was good statement but could go into more depth of quality of life and sustainability

Commissioner Simpkins said exercising fiscal responsibility and making well-planned decisions.

Chair NeSmith said current mission statement was good foundation, added enhancing public safety and quality of life.

Commissioner Simpkins also put in for a vibrant community.

Mr. Stiell said if he understood correctly, “Building a more vibrant community by offering efficient sustainable services, encouraging economic development and enhancing safety and overall quality of life”.

Commissioner Holt appeared at 12:45 pm.

Vision

“The model community of excellence globally.”

Chair NeSmith said only thing missing was comma after excellence.

Commissioner Green said vision was also what they wanted to see the community become.

Commissioner Holt said only thing that got her last time was word globally. She was not sure if they were talking about world-wide, state-wide.

Mr. Stiell said it sounded like everyone agreed with keeping the vision as is.

VALUES

Mr. Stiell said the values chosen and 2021 was “Gadsden Leads”:

- Great

- Accountable
- Diverse
- Sustainable
- Dependable
- Ethical
- Neighborly

- Leadership
- Effective
- Adaptive
- Determined
- Stable

He asked everyone to take a few minutes to review to see if there were any changes.

Commissioner Green stepped out 12:55 pm.

There were no changes for Mr. Dixon, Commissioner Hinson and Commissioner Green.

Commissioner Holt said without professionalism, nothing else worked.

Chair NeSmith said it looked good to him.

Commissioner Simpkins said all the words speak of professionalism without having to be listed.

Chair NeSmith echoed what Commissioner Simpkins said.

Priorities

Strategic priorities are focus areas that are important to your organization. They help guide the goals and objectives, and they reflect your culture.

Priorities

- Public health, Safety, and Quality of life
- Economic Development and Education
- Infrastructure and Transportation
- Environmental Stewardship

Commissioner Hinson felt infrastructure should be their top priority.

Commissioner Simpkins agreed with all priorities that were listed but believed they needed to add “operational excellence” and making sure they were attracting and retaining a diverse workforce.

Commissioner Green said he liked what was listed and wanted to make sure they were not just listing what their priorities were but were starting to work the priorities.

Commissioner Hinson said add affordable housing after infrastructure.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 1:14 pm

Commissioner Hinson mentioned to also add digital infrastructure.

Commissioner Holt returned at 1:17 pm

Key Performance Indicator

- Quantifiable measure that demonstrates how effectively an organization is achieving key objectives within a specific timeframe. Key Performance Indicators (KPI) are metrics used to evaluate success at reaching goals. Usually, each department or business unit develops different KPIs to measure success based on specific business objectives and targets. To develop effective KPIs, ask the following questions:
 - What specifically needs to be achieved?
 - How will what needs to be achieved be measured?

KPI Checklist

An appropriate KPI being measured

- The metric is repeatable and does not represent a one-time event
- The KPI is a key metric of the performance

It is evident which process is being measured and why

- It is clear which outcomes or objectives need to be achieved
- The intent of the KPI is evident
- There is a required standard or range for the KPI
- If a KPI is not being achieved, it is apparent what actions need to be taken to achieve it.

KPIs are strategically developed

- KPIs are aligned to organizational, unit, and individual objectives
- Rules and regulations guide KPIs
- Each KPI supports other KPIs

The metric is sound

- Data required to calculate the KPI is readily available
- The KPI is easy to communicate and understand
- It is clear how frequently the KPI needs to be measured
- The KPI is developed using stable data
- The people being measured can impact the value of the KPI
- The KPI is realistic and achievable

Objectives

- Objectives are specific accomplishments that must be accomplished in total, or in some combination, to achieve the goals in the plan
- Objectives are usually “milestones” along the way when implementing the strategies

Strategies

- Strategies are the methods or processes required in total, or in some combination, to achieve the goals

- Strategies are a combination of the ends (goals) for which you are striving and the means by which it is seeking to get there. It is the roadmap which is the path chosen to plow toward the end vision.

Recessed for break at 1:22 pm

Reconvened 1:41 pm

4. Identify Goals and Targets for Meeting Goals

Public Health, Safety and Quality of Life

Mr. Stiell had a list of goals for the Board to decide if they wanted to keep as written or would like to phrase in a certain way to measure.

- Develop an access to healthcare plan

Is there a different way to phrase this to measure it?

Commissioner Holt asked if they were going to look at facilities because at the beginning, they have to collect data and said the first thing she listed was to look at charts, graphs and tables to establish a baseline.

Chair NeSmith asked if there was someone to coordinate that.

Commissioner Hinson said the Health Council or whoever was over Senior Services has to contact the Administrator and he would be the one to bring it back to the Board.

Mr. Stiell brought them back to the item of discussion and asked how they wanted to develop access to the healthcare plan.

Commissioner Hinson asked how they could move forward when Chair NeSmith had trepidations.

Commissioner Holt said the Health Council was put in place to monitor the providers.

Commissioner Simpkins said what she understood was how to put this in words so it could be measured. Stiell said correct.

Mr. Dixon said County has not been involved in the past except to give money to the Health Department. He said helped was now becoming such a big issue, they ought to be in a position to begin to develop an overall plan.

Commissioner Green said the best thing to do is bring those other people from the health department, the health council and the commissioners to the table because that's their perspective. They need to all be at the table with experts in that area.

Mr. Stiell suggested to change from develop access to healthcare plan to establish a health care summit by date certain.

Commissioner Green said to reach out to everyone before the summit and wanted to make sure Dr. Alma Littles was also invited.

Commissioner Holt said a good idea was to get general information, development a health care plan including a Health Care summit, get baseline data, set evaluation parameters, develop goals and objectives and include in the group Medicare/Medicaid.

Commissioner Simpkins was piggybacking off Commissioner Holt, but developing and implementing healthcare plan including medical insurance provider, medical staff and hospital/urgent care facilities, primary physician offices, the to which they could do a measurable piece, maybe 40% of the uninsured can seek medical treatment.

Chair NeSmith concurred with all commissioners.

Commissioner Simpkins said she was asked about the mobile health unit. Mr. Stiell said the Board provided funding for the mobile unit. Ms. Daniels said Health Council received a grant for the purchase of a mobile unit. The County is responsible for housing the mobile unit and it was purchased with a grant that was awarded to the Gadsden County Health Council. Ms. Daniels said there was a delay in receiving the bus due to the pandemic and the Health Council asked the County to help pay for the bus but they worked it out where they could pay for bus themselves with grant funds.

Commissioner Green asked where they were with the unit. Ms. Daniels believed the unit has been delivered to the Health Council.

Commissioner Holt said the Health Council was set up to prevent taking advantage of people in the County. She asked Mr. Dixon where it would be housed and he said at the County.

Chair NeSmith asked if the mobile unit has been delivered and Mr. Dixon said it was being built. They need a workshop with the Health Council to understand everyone's role.

Commissioner Green said before they even have a health summit, the Health Council needs to come before the Board.

Commissioner Holt asked when they were meeting with the hospital board. The Health Council needs to be part of that meeting as well.

Commissioner Green said he wanted to be clear, he would like the Health Council to come before the Board and give a presentation of what they have done and what their goals were and have it placed on the agenda.

Commissioner Holt stepped out 2:20 pm

Commissioner Green said they need an overview of what the Board was.

Commissioner Hinson said the best thing to do was to look at the agenda when they voted on this and it would give them all the clarification needed.

Chair NeSmith wanted to make sure they had the goals from Health Care and workshops would be set up along with presentations.

Research Transitional Housing

Commissioner Green said as it related to having transitional housing, the presentation says it is on-track and asked what was on track as related to transitional housing.

Mr. Stiell said they started doing an inventory of the County-owned properties and still need someone to inventory them, look at the physical location and see if appropriate for transitional housing.

Commissioner Holt returned at 2:36 pm

Mr. Dixon said they need to further define transitional and if they meant returning from prison, homelessness, a burned home, etc.

Commissioner Green said they needed a workshop to define all of that, what they want as transitional and how many houses they wanted to have.

Chair NeSmith said this was a separate issue to tackle and a workshop was needed because housing was huge and data was needed.

Mr. Stiell suggested they look it to properties in each district for transitional housing.

Chair NeSmith asked, when a property escheats to the county who was responsible for gathering the information and Mr. Dixon said the Clerk was. Chair NeSmith asked how they found out the information and Mr. Dixon stated they found out in a report generated from the Clerk. Mr. Dixon said the Clerk has the property that escheats and may sell or auction properties off, etc. but not all properties come through the Clerk. He said the county may buy something or it may be conveyed to the county. He said there may be a file in the Clerk's office, but where the physical location is or what it does for the county, they have never kept that in one single place. Chair NeSmith asked who would be responsible for doing the research and Mr. Dixon said it would be the housing department. They will bring in a person to put it into an understandable, easily assessable file so everyone can access it. Chair NeSmith asked for a date when that person can start the process. Mr. Dixon said it would be "as soon as" but by the end of the fiscal year. Chair NeSmith asked if they would not have a person until that time and Mr. Dixon said they would have the information prepped and ready and in a format by the end of the fiscal year. Chair NeSmith asked if they would have a person by May 1st and Mr. Dixon said yes. Chair NeSmith asked if they would have the preliminary data by June 1 and Mr. Dixon said yes, they would at least have a report by June 1st.

Commissioner Hinson said if the Clerk's office was called, they can have the information to them by the end of the day.

Economic Development and Education

Mr. Still asked they take a few minutes and look through the section to determine if any goals needed to be amended.

Commissioner Green stepped out 3:03 PM

Mr. Stiell said they were looking for measurable goals and if they needed to be combined or additional goals added but they wanted to make sure they were measurable and they could get the data for it.

Chair NeSmith said they had been looking for an Executive Director for Economic Development for a while and they may need to re-evaluate that.

Mr. Stiell said to first look at the overall goal.

Commissioner Hinson said they have lot of director jobs that has not been filled. They have been looking for budget director for two years, maybe they need to look for an outside source.

Commissioner Green returned 3:08 pm

Commissioner Holt said they have had headhunters here and she was not opposed to it. They have had an Executive Director in-house before. She has spoken with two and they do not want to work under five bosses. Also, the salary was not good, and they have their reputation to look after.

Commissioner Simpkins said they should take what was said about the headhunter and put it in goal form for bringing in an Economic Development Director. She added so May 1st there would be a contract with the headhunter. Mr. Knowles said they would do an RFQ for a headhunter. She asked when they look at the Heir Property Legal Assistance Program, do they continue to keep that and knew there have been workshops.

Mr. Knowles said COVID derailed a lot of projects but could reach back out to the law school and look at getting law students that could assist with the program. He said it would be good and helpful when they start the budget process, because they will need money for filing fees, death certificates, things that will have to be done in information gathered and might be a good program to develop like the Summer Youth Program.

Commissioner Simpkins said based on what Mr. Knowles said, she thought one of the goals should be to establish a partnership with one of the law schools to provide student interns to assist with the program.

Commissioner Green said he was an agreement with using a headhunter for the Economic Development Director. He said they also need to look into what they could do to help the school district that are implement programs for training students and obtaining certifications for different trade programs such as barbering, nursing, plumbing, electricians and possibly truck drivers.

Mr. Dixon said to implement the CTE program with the Summer Youth program.

Commissioner Holt said the problem comes when finding people to sign off on heir property. In the future, she wanted to see numbers in front of her.

Commissioner Green said they have to know because they could not budget an unlimited amount. They have to agree to a number and what's that pot is gone come back and ask to amend.

Commissioner Hinson stated this was an emergency for the county, people were losing their houses.

Commissioner Simpkins said to establish a goal for that will provide legal assistance and hard costs for at least 100 people.

Ms. Daniels said they all have to do is to have a plan.

Commissioner Holt agreed with the housing. She Asked if the budget was on-line and Mr. Dixon said yes. She asked if during the meetings if they could pull up these items on screen and could see them from now on.

Mr. Dixon said that was part of the reason to get started, as they go through the strategic plan, they will marry it with budget. She said she was also when these things come up in a regular meeting because when they talk about this, they need to be able to see the numbers. She also said in partnering with the schools, she put industrial certifications and it needed to be something that related them to infrastructure, plumbing, electrical wiring and drafting.

Commissioner Holt asked if they had been able to identify the location and implement the Midway library plan. Commissioner Hinson the City Administrator was working with them and they were going to put portables there and had to be there for one year and the County could take over from that point. Commissioner Holt asked if they already owned a location and Commissioner Hinson said they had a spot behind the old Fire Station.

She said to recruit, train and retain competent talent for county staff was very important and needed.

She said the item with minority farmers, most of them have not and could not get USDA loans and that was why there was the big lawsuit. She said last time she looked tour 28 farmers and they were losing their farms because they could not get the money to plant crops to get things they needed to get to come back and go to market.

Commissioner Hinson said he served (inaudible) and could help a lot of farmers out in pointing them in the right direction for what they need to do to grow their business.

Chair NeSmith wanted to make sure they had the request for the RFQ for the Economic Development Director and the RFQ for the headhunter on the next agenda. He said they also may have to solicit the assistance of the headhunter to fill the key positions that have been vacant for a while.

Commissioner Simpkins asked with the schools, was that goal established? Also, they will need to bring in the business community. Mr. Dixon said that was part of the program. Also, developing an apprenticeship, the school has an excellent graphic department and they could

collaborate to provide services when flyers were needed. She said the Administrator mentioned collaborating with municipalities and did they have that listed as a goal? If not, it needed to be.

Commissioner Holt said with the goals, she did not have problem as they were as long as the one she mentioned were included. She said since they were pushing the RFQ, they need to know what other counties were doing. She also felt they needed to put dirt roads as a priority to get something worked out.

Commissioner Holt said they did not mention the Comprehensive Plan and there could not be economic development or any of those things unless the Comprehensive Plan is streamlined and has to fit in the Land Development Code. Chair NeSmith said they will have another workshop.

Commissioner Simpkins said the public's input was important as well as to where they would like to see the County go. She asked if they were having another workshop to deal with the Organizational chart? She did not see where the opportunity presented itself in this meeting. She said they needed to see what they had and that what they did have was being utilized.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD (3-Minute Limit)

The Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners welcomes and encourages public participation at all meetings of the Board. Citizens are free to speak for up to three (3) minutes on non-agenda items. Public comments and participation are also encouraged for items on the agenda. Additionally, if you are unable to attend a meeting in person, comments from the Public can also be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until noon on the date of the meeting. Comments submitted after the deadline, but prior to the meeting, will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting. Citizens are further encouraged to participate via Zoom using the credentials on the County's website. The Board's meetings are also broadcast live on the Board's Facebook page.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH DECLARED THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED AT 4:13 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**KIMBLIN NESMITH, 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 APRIL 12TH, 2023 AT 5:00 P.M.,
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

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

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Nesmith welcomed everyone. Commissioner Simpkins provided invocation. Chairman Nesmith then led to the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Welcome and Introduction

Chairman Nesmith welcomed and thanked everyone for being there. He stated they would discuss preparation for the 200-year anniversary celebrations. It was their opportunity to discuss this. He stated he had insights on this.

2. Overview

Mr. Dixon stated they will seek direction today on how to move going forward for the Bicentennial project plan. He stated it would be community based and community focused.

3. Discussion and Direction of Bicentennial Celebration

Mr. Dixon mentioned the budget that was set up. In the budget was \$200,000.

He stated community engagement was important to them and getting folks to look at Gadsden County again. Mr. Dixon said Gadsden County will turn 200 on June 24th. He stated Gadsden County used to be from GA boarder to the coast. He stated they tried to put together a ‘hodgepodge’ of things and opportunities they could take. Mr. Dixon stated they looked at stakeholders present. They were looking for guidance, no decisions had been made other than giving the timeline. This meeting was to get the Commissioners ideas and input on how to move things forward.

Chairman Nesmith stated he had ideas to get started. He asked Mr. Dixon if there was a theme; Mr. Dixon stated no.

Commissioner Green stated they needed a theme. It should be something to utilize during the Christmas parade to have on floats.

Commissioner Holt stated she was interested in including different groups in the area. She mentioned the year 1824 and the history. She stated they should include something from each genre and for it to be multicultural. Her idea for a theme was for it to be multicultural.

Commissioner Green asked Chairman Nesmith to give them until the meeting on Tuesday to suggest a theme. Chairman Nesmith stated sure.

Commissioner Holt suggested “Gadsden County Melting Pot” as the theme. It should be something that was inclusive.

Chairman Nesmith stated they could bring this up again on Tuesday.

Commissioner Green stated they had already approved up to \$200,00 but that did not mean they had to spend it all. He stated it was not a part of the discussion as far as approval wise, because it was already approved.

Chairman Nesmith asked Mr. Dixon if they included Coca-Cola with the stakeholders. Mr. Dixon stated no. He wanted to make sure they include them.

Chairman Nesmith mentioned page 16 of 16. He stated he read into the private entity, which was why he thought of Coca-Cola to provide some financial assistance in local activities. He mentioned events going on in other cities, and was thinking to collaborate with the municipalities to celebrate. He stated it was a Gadsden County celebration.

Commissioner Holt stated they voted to give them \$25,000. That should be partnering with them already. They needed to make sure they include that in there.

Mr. Dixon stated a lot of it was about the look. He stated they pre-ordered flags to raise around Gadsden County.

Commissioner Holt stated May Day is next month, so they need to meet and see what they could include from the County. If that would be their Bicentennial event, they need to include history. They need to know what it was they were looking for from them to partner.

Chairman Nesmith asked Mr. Dixon if they had any preliminary discussions with the city of Gretna regarding this event. Mr. Dixon stated no, but they had no problems when they talked to them.

Commissioner Simpkins stated the Gretna event could be an intro to the Bicentennial. That event is already taking place, they would need to come up with a theme. She stated they could be introducing the Bicentennial event there. She spoke with the town manager from Havana and they were waiting on the Commissioners to get back with them. They wanted to participate, but they were waiting to come the table. She stated since they had the museum over there, they had a video that was able to go through history to bring the community together and showing the film.

Chairman Nesmith asked Mr. Dixon to follow up on that.

Commissioner Green stated Escambia County also celebrated 200 years; they could look for things from them to see their branding. He stated that he would love to see some quality gospel artists. If they could maybe find artists and utilize some local gospel artists.

Commissioner Simpkins stated the 'Barbecue and Blues' was suggested. The idea was bringing in organizations or municipalities to be a part of it. She stated she believed it occurred in October. It did not have to be during that time.

Commissioner Holt stated she keeps mentioning history, because other than that, it would just be activities. People here know a lot of history, but did not have anyone to record their stories. That is part of the Bicentennial. She stated from the Apalachicola River to the Suwannee River was Gadsden County. It was a whole territory; Leon County was in Gadsden County. So, they needed to look at how they could combine those histories and pull them together.

Chairman Nesmith asked if there was a way to integrate the films together.

Commissioner Holt stated it could be combined, they just needed to see what their schedule looked like.

Chairman Nesmith asked if there is a book of the history of Gadsden County

Commissioner Holt said there were several. She stated Dr. Rivers and Dr. Cox had one. Barnes and Nobles also had a book with the history of Gadsden County.

Commissioner Green asked if they knew who were the first families in Gadsden County.

Commissioner Holt said she was not sure. They need to leave a footprint and is inclusive. In 1826, she would not have been a commissioner. They needed to be a white male and own slaves and property to be a commissioner. Not necessarily a good or bad thing, it was just a part of the history. They need to display the rich history that they have.

Commissioner Simpkins stated that is where it would be important, to include everyone. If someone in the Church could have input on this and be a part of the planning, they could contact her. She did not want to celebrate some of the history; it happened but she did not actually want to celebrate it. They could take segments of the history and each event, and focus on specific things. She stated a play would be awesome. Mr. Dixon mentioned the Leaf Theatre. They could incorporate their history through these events and activities. They needed to look at what part of the history did they want to show for Gretna.

Commissioner Green stated they could have a storyteller that would focus on an era. With 5 commissioners, each one could nominate someone to be the storyteller or responsible for giving that segment of history. He stated they need to have Gospel music history. He stated he was excited about a potential play happening.

Chairman Nesmith asked if they had found representatives from their district for their advisory committee to bring some history and ideas.

Commissioner Green asked how many people were they responsible for bringing. He stated each commissioner could have 2. Each district could have representation. They would ask them if they could attend a meeting to hear the vision for the Bicentennial.

Commissioner Holt stated it was a great idea.

Chairman Nesmith asked who will coordinate to get the 2 people together.

Commissioner Green stated jokingly that was what they had the Administrator for. Commissioner Green stated they had aids and they could take on that responsibility. They could report back to them. Commissioner Green stated they would report to the Administrator beforehand.

Commissioner Simpkins stepped out at 5:47PM.

Commissioner Holt asked the Attorney what would it look like when they appoint someone. When they appoint someone, they needed to be held by the same rules and regulations. She stated the Aids could be one of the 2 people. She stated there was a guy in Greensboro who had outfits for historical events.

Commissioner Simpkins stepped in at 5:50PM.

Chairman Nesmith asked Commissioner Green when they should have the 2 names ready and to who will they report it to.

Commissioner Green stated they could have the 2 names ready by Tuesday to submit to the Administrator to be a part of the committee. He stated he liked the idea of selecting two and having the Aid facilitate. They would do the recommendations.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she saw a charity gala coordination for a Bicentennial in a different county. She thinks a charity gala could be able to use for funding of non-profits.

Commissioner Green stated it would give them an opportunity to work during the event. They would not just be receiving a handout, but would be able to help out the County.

Commissioner Holt stated they should not be funding non-profits because they had the ability to raise their own money and apply for Grants. What they do had to be county wide. She thought it was a great idea to have them raise their own money. She mentioned an end of the year Gala, so the non-profits had until then to raise funds.

Commissioner Hinson stepped in at 5:55PM.

Chairman Nesmith stated it was wonderful for the community to get involved as the population is increasing. He stated the Gala can grow and can fund non-profits from that fund as those organizations become independent and have stability.

Chairman Nesmith brought Commissioner Hinson up to speed. He stated the May Day event in Gretna would be like a launch for the Bicentennial.

Commissioner Green stated they needed to make sure there is a line of communication.

Chairman Nesmith stated to Mr. Dixon that he needed to have a discussion with the City of Gretna to discuss possibly having the launch. He asked for a report by Tuesday.

Chairman Nesmith asked if the City of Gretna is receptive, what would they like to happen at the launch.

Commissioner Green stated a piece of history of the City of Gretna. They want to encourage the people to look out for what they have coming up for events.

Commissioner Holt mentioned a treasure hunt they were working on. She mentioned a banner that maybe has the theme, and they could buy 6 for all towns. A piece of history could maybe be blown up on a board. She stated these were all just suggestions.

Commissioner Green stepped out at 6:01PM.

Chairman Nesmith brought Commissioner Hinson up to speed regarding the advisory committee.

Chairman Nesmith asked what would come after the launch.

Commissioner Simpkins stated July may be the next event.

Commissioner Holt mentioned Juneteenth. She said they need a calendar and put these things on there.

Mr. Dixon stated for them to reach out to stakeholders and find important dates.

Commissioner Simpkins stated as far as choosing dates, that is where they allow the advisory committee to come in and give them that task to see what is taking place.

Attorney Knowles asked how they would set up the advisory committee. He stated they were not delegating authority to committee; they would just be fact finding. If they are just fact finding, he suggested that they should still come to the public meetings. If they wanted them to meet, they could maybe add it as an agenda item to discuss instead of meeting separately. He asked how did they plan on structuring that.

Commissioner Holt stated that was the reason why she asked that question earlier. Once they appoint a committee, they need to do advertising. They need to have access to what the Sunshine Law is.

Attorney Knowles asked how would they compose it so he could give better advise.

Mr. Dixon asked if the Board is appointed by the Administrator, then those rules would not apply.

Attorney Knowles stated he would need to look into that. He thinks Mr. Dixon is right, he was just more concerned since the Commissioners were bringing in 2 people, but they're not making decisions just bringing in facts. That was what he was asking, what are these 2 people that they are bringing in going to do.

Commissioner Holt stated she wanted them to be fact finding. She suggested one of the Aids could be one of the people. She stated the reason she asked Attorney Knowles the question was because they were in a public meeting and needed to make sure they had a legal opinion.

Chairman Nesmith asked Attorney Knowles if they each send their Aid to the meeting for input. For example, if one of Commissioner Hinson's representatives would like to have an event in Midway, the Aid would then report back to the Board. Where would that fall? The person is gathering information and is reporting it to Commissioner Hinson's Aid. Commissioner Hinson's Aid reports it to Commissioner Hinson and he presents it to the Board. What is that called?

Attorney Knowles stated the key thing was Delegation of Authority. It was not something they necessarily need to advertise in the newspaper.

Chairman stated he wanted to make things clear as they are wrapping this up. They have a potential launch event that would be May Day in Gretna, pending the Administrator communicating with the leadership in the City of Gretna. Between now and Tuesday, Mr. Dixon would bring information on that communication. He stated also on Tuesday they will bring 2 names for the advisory committee. Also, they would bring recommendations for themes for Bicentennial. Once the Administrator receives their recommendation, allow Mr. Dixon to communicate with those persons for further meetings.

Commissioner Holt stated they need a calendar of stuff going on. Also, she stated she had people ask her questions about just having one event for the Bicentennial. People wanted to see what their County is doing.

Commissioner Hinson stated this was a perfect opportunity for the Board to execute public-private partnership. He stated they had very few members of staff, less employees to do certain things. He stated they should have just funded the program to the non-profit organization and they in turn would do the research. He stated research would be impossible in 2 weeks. The right way would have been having a non-profit organization to take care of this, it would have been done correctly. BOCC would have given them funding to bring all the research together.

Commissioner Holt stated they were doing a good job; no need to justify.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD (3-Minute Limit)

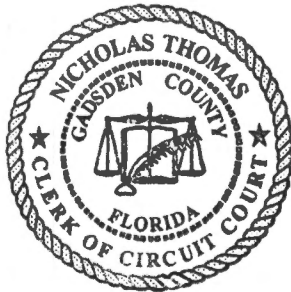
The Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners welcomes and encourages public participation at all meetings of the Board. Citizens are free to speak for up to three (3) minutes on non-agenda items. Public comments and participation are also encouraged for items on the agenda. Additionally, if you are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

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
April 12th, 2023 – Bicentennial Workshop

email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until noon on the date of the meeting. Comments submitted after the deadline, but prior to the meeting, will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting. Citizens are further encouraged to participate via Zoom using the credentials on the County's website. The Board's meetings are also broadcast live on the Board's Facebook page.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH DECLARED THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED AT 6:19 P.M.



GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A MEETING OF THE PLANNING
COMMISSION HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FL ON APRIL 13TH, 2023 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
William Chukes, District 1
Tracey Stallworth, District 2
John Youman, District 2
Mark Moore, District 3
Wayne Williams, District 3
Charles Roberts, At Large
Karema Dudley, School Board Representative

Staff Present: Justin Stiell, Planning and Zoning Director
Ellen Andrews, Senior Planner
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk
Adriana Quijada, Clerk Secretary to the Boards

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.gadsgencountyfl.gov. Anyone wishing to speak on agenda items should schedule or notify the County Public Information Officer at 850-875-8671 or emailing media@gadsgencountyfl.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@gadsgencountyfl.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.

Pursuant to Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, the County hereby advises the public that: If a person decides to appeal any decision made by this Board, agency, or meeting or hearing, he/she will need a record of the proceedings, and that for such purpose, affected persons may need to insure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. This notice does not constitute consent by the County for the introduction or admission into evidence of otherwise inadmissible or irrelevant evidence, nor does it authorize challenges or appeals not otherwise allowed by

law. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 286.26, Florida Statutes, persons with disabilities needing special accommodations to participate in this meeting should call the Planning & Community Development Department at 875-8663, no later than 5:00 p.m. at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Parramore called the meeting to order at 6:05PM. Commissioner Moore provided invocation and led into Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S Flag.

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS – ROLL CALL

Roll Call was completed by the Deputy Clerk:

Rev. Dr. Joe Parramore, Chair	Present
Lori Bouie, Vice-Chair	Appeared later
Eugene Sherman III	Present
William Chukes	Not Present
Tracey Stallworth	Present
John Youman	Present
Mark Moore	Present
Wayne Williams	Present
Charles Roberts	Present
Karema Dudley	Not Present

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Parramore asked if anyone had any amendments to the agenda.

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER SHERMAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER YOUMAN. THE MOTION WAS VOTED ON A ROLL CALL VOTE AND PASSED 7 TO 0.

Rev. Dr. Joe Parramore, Chair	YES
Eugene Sherman III	YES
Tracey Stallworth	YES
John Youman	YES
Mark Moore	YES
Wayne Williams	YES
Charles Roberts	YES

MINUTES – Feb 16th and Jan 12th Meetings

Chair Parramore asked for a motion to approve minutes for the February 16th meeting and revised minutes from January 12th meeting.

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER MOORE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER STALLWORTH. THE MOTION WAS VOTED ON A ROLL CALL VOTE AND PASSED 7 TO 0.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

2. Havana Learning Center Conceptual/Preliminary Site Plan (SP 2022-03) (Quasi-Judicial) – Continuance of February 16, 2023 Consideration of a conceptual/preliminary site plan to construct a classroom building and a gymnasium to an existing school facility on a 7.72-acre parcel located at 2434 Kemp Road, Havana (Parcel ID 2-25-3N-2W-0000-00440-0100).

Chair Parramore presented the above item. He stated it was a Quasi-Judicial Hearing and speakers would be sworn in by the Clerk.

Commissioner Bouie stepped in at 6:10PM

Mr. Stiell was sworn in by the Deputy Clerk. He stated he wanted to give a little bit of a background before they got into the issues that were outstanding from the last meeting. He stated the Havana Learning Center, represented by Carmen Green, had submitted an application for a Phase Development Plan for classroom and gym additions for the Havana Learning Center. He stated on February 16th, 2023, the Planning Commission voted on the agenda item for the proposed Conceptual/Preliminary Site plan for the Havana Learning Center. The Planning Commission voted for option 3, referred the agenda item back to the planning staff to discuss with the applicant the following issues and then bring the item back to the Planning Commission. Issue 1 was the numerous traffic study issues. Issue 2 was to mediate sidewalk issues. Issue 3 was to get clarity from Talquin on the fiber optic cable markers. He stated most of those issues had been resolved. He stated they dealt with the sidewalk issue and got clarity from Talquin on fiber optic cable markers. The only outstanding thing not received was the traffic study. They were going to run some numbers and get some traffic counts and they had not received that yet. He stated they were proposing the same items with those exceptions.

Commissioner Sherman asked regarding traffic flow through, why it was not able to be provided as requested.

Carmen Green was sworn in by the Deputy Clerk. She stated she had some preliminary traffic numbers and she read them to the Commissioners. She did not think traffic would be an issue. She stated the other thing that was asked about was security. She stated cameras that cover the entire school property are present and are monitored through GC Sheriff's Department and Havana Police Department. There is also a metal detector inside the building and an onsite resource officer that is on campus daily. They do all the state mandated drills which include lockdown procedures, bomb threat procedures, emergency evacuation procedures, active shooter procedures and monthly fire drills. She stated they had a contract with Security for South East LLC for fire alarm monitoring and onsite camera monitoring and inspections. They also have adult staff to monitor parent pick up daily. She stated they had a contract with Waste Pro, it is picked up weekly. They would need to install a new, larger water well. She asked if everyone received and reviewed the plans.

Commissioner Roberts asked if the traffic study done was for Kemp Road or for traffic numbers directly related to facility. Ms. Green stated directly to the facility.

Commissioner Bouie asked if there was access to previous traffic studies. Ms. Green stated there was not a lot of traffic data. She had been calling DOT but they do not have any updated numbers. Ms. Bouie asked if they brought equipment from FDOT. Ms. Green stated no. Commissioner Bouie stated she was asking because not certain if there had been real growth.

Commissioner Youman asked if she contacted FDOT. Ms. Green stated she did and they were in the process of getting the numbers out.

Chairman Parramore asked if she was satisfied with the sidewalk mediation. Ms. Green stated yes.

Commissioner Stallworth mentioned the online resource officer and if they were certified with the GC Sheriff's Department. Ms. Green stated she believed they were but she would verify. Commissioner Stallworth asked how often was the septic tank empty. Ms. Green stated it was a pressure dosed system. She will find out how often they go to empty it and give that information to Mr. Stiell.

Chair Parramore asked for a motion for Options 1-3 under this item.

VICE-CHAIR BOUIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION ONE AND COMMISSIONER SHERMAN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

Rev. Dr. Joe Parramore, Chair	YES
Lori Bouie, Vice-Chair	YES
Eugene Sherman III	YES
Tracey Stallworth	YES
John Youman	YES
Mark Moore	YES
Wayne Williams	YES
Charles Roberts	YES

- 3. Havana RV Park Conceptual/Preliminary Site Plan (SP 2022-04) (Quasi-Judicial) - Consideration of a conceptual/preliminary site plan to construct a recreational vehicle park on a 6-acre parcel located west of U.S. 27 (FL-GA Hwy), south of Bush Street, and east of the FL Gulf & Atlantic Railroad line (Parcel ID 2-22-3N-2W-0160-00001-0120).**

Chair Parramore presented the above item and said this was Quasi-Judicial.

Mr. Stiell came before the Board to discuss the above item.

Commissioner Moore asked if all the deed work had been straightened out. Mr. Stiell stated the applicant informed him that they were working on that. He had not received any updates.

Commissioner Stallworth asked about Item 3 and how many camps would be allotted for that size. Mr. Stiell stated they were proposing 18 units. Based on density requirement, it could go up to 8 per acre.

Commissioner Stallworth stated under basic math, they could put in between 24-26. If they are proposing 18, would that be concrete or would there be an addendum added indicating if they move forward, they would have to do Point 1,2,3. Mr. Stiell stated DOH would be the one who permits the number of RV's that they had and it would be based on what would be approved by the Board.

Commissioner Sherman stated he had concerns about the absence of the utility plan for the water and sewer. He wanted enlightenment of what was the hold up with that plan. Mr. Stiell stated the utility plan would need to be provided at the next phase.

Commissioner Roberts asked if it was the old Hobbit restaurant area or the commercial building behind it. Mr. Stiell stated if they were facing the site on U.S. 27, the Hobbit would be to the right.

Robert George, 1967 Commonwealth Lane Tallahassee, FL.

Mr. George was sworn in by the Deputy Clerk. He was from George & Associates Consulting Engineers. He appeared before the Board to answer questions based on the review Mr. Stiell provided. Commissioner Roberts stated he had a question about utilities and sewage. He asked what would be the plan because they were not connected to anything at the moment. Mr. George stated they would tie into the public water system, either Talquin Electric or Havana. They would be using medicinal water. There is no sewer available, so they had to put in a septic tank system.

Commissioner Moore stated he was not clear having read through this. He asked if there would be turning lanes or not. Mr. George stated yes, DOT was requiring turn lanes. He stated it was not due to the volume of traffic, but more of a safety issue.

Chair Parramore had a question regarding the deed issue. He asked if he had any idea on when it would be resolved. Mr. George stated he was not specifically familiar with the deed issue but his answer was that they had to have it resolved prior to construction.

Mr. Stiell asked if they could add in option 1, Limit size of RV unit to 40 feet to be consistent with diagram provided by the applicant.

Vice-Chair Bouie asked if the deed issue should be included as well. Chair Parramore stated no it would not apply to them. That would be the next phase when it was time for the development order. Mr. Stiell stated that would be something to include as a condition.

Commissioner Sherman asked if Attorney Knowles could weigh in on the discussion so that they would be clear since it was a legal matter. Attorney Knowles stated the parcel looked to be complete. They would not be able to get any sort of DO or CO without having clear title. The only way it would work is if they came in with clear title. There still has to be a final site plan to go before them. He stated you cannot build on property you do not own. They will not issue anything until that deed issue is cleared.

Commissioner Sherman asked if he could provide guidance on if it should be included in a motion for approval. Attorney Knowles stated he had only seen what Mr. Moore wrote in his email on page 70 or so. He was saying that he could not see where the gap closes between one of the properties. He suggested that if it was a concern, they could ensure that the owner has resolved all title issues and has full fee simple ownership of the subject parcel or parcels.

Mr. Stiell stated once they approved the conceptual/preliminary site plan, it would not come back before the Planning Commission or BOCC. Chair Parramore asked if the next thing that would come back is the final. Mr. Stiell stated no, he will review the site plan, and the Board would make their decision based on their recommendations.

Commissioner Sherman asked Attorney Knowles if that statement 'NI' provided sufficient coverage since they would not see it again for the resolution of the title issues, boundaries, and the simple ownership in all parcels. Attorney Knowles stated they should add it and it should be explicit if that was what they were desired. DOT stated that it was not closed off and they could not find a deed. They had to make sure they were the fee simple owner which had a special legal significance.

Commissioner Sherman made the motion of moving option 1 with the addition of Item J, to limit the size to 40 feet to be consistent with the diagram provided by the applicant and Item K, to ensure that the owner had resolved all title issues, boundaries, surveys and fee simple ownership in all parcels. Commissioner Roberts second the motion.

Rev. Dr. Joe Parramore, Chair	YES
Lori Bouie, Vice-Chair	YES

Eugene Sherman III	YES
Tracey Stallworth	YES
John Youman	YES
Mark Moore	YES
Wayne Williams	YES
Charles Roberts	YES

GENERAL BUSINESS

7. TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Mr. Stiell stated they had been looking into the training and education they requested. He asked if there were any additional training that the Commissioners would like to see in the future.

Chair Parramore stated ethics in Sunshine Law was a great start. Even though they were a little behind, it was a critical starting point for them.

8. PLANNING DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

No comments

9. PLANNING COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

No comments

10. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR PARRAMORE ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 6:55 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

JOE PARRAMORE, Chair

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON APRIL 18TH, 2023 AT 6:00 P.M.,
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

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

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman NeSmith called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM. Commissioner Simpkins led into provocation and Chair NeSmith led into the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Dixon stated Item #13A Dewberry Contract for Stevens School to be amended.

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

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

Mr. Dixon stated they had a proclamation honoring National Library Week for 2023, presented by Ms. Washington.

1. **Proclamation Honoring 2023 National Library Week**

The Board presented proclamation to the Library Director Tabettha Washington.

2. **Presentation Regarding the Gadsden Arts Center & Museum**

Mr. Dixon presented the above item.

Grace Robinson appeared before the Board and gave an update regarding the Gadsden Arts Center & Museum.

CONSENT

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

Commissioner Hinson asked for the County Administrator to expand on agenda item 7 due to what was going on nowadays with all the shootings.

Mr. Dixon explained it was a letter of agreement to authorize the Tallahassee Big Bend Crime Stoppers. The primary funding comes from the state office of the Attorney General through a Trust Fund Grant and Aid Program. It was required to be renewed every 3 years. They were required to

obtain a letter from each Commissioner authorizing them to act as their agent for the purpose of applying for receiving monies from the Crime Stoppers Trust Fund.

3. **Ratification Memo**
(Clerk of Court)
4. **Approval of Minutes**
 - **March 21, 2023 BOCC Meeting**
5. **Approval to Confirm the Director of Public Works**
(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator)
6. **Small County Consolidated Waste Grant Amendment with FL Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)**
(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator/Curtis Young, Public Works Director)
7. **Letter of Agreement Authorizing Tallahassee Big Bend Crime Stopper, Inc**
(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator)
8. **Approval of Memorandum of Understanding Between Gadsden Board of County Commissioners**
(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator)

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

The Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners welcomes and encourages public participation at all meetings of the Board. Citizens are free to speak for up to three (3) minutes on non-agenda items. Public comments and participation are also encouraged for items on the agenda. Additionally, if you are unable to attend a meeting in person, comments from the Public can also be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until noon on the date of the meeting. Comments submitted after the deadline, but prior to the meeting, will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting. Citizens are further encouraged to participate via Zoom using the credentials on the County's website. The Board's meetings are also broadcast live on the Board's Facebook page.

Mr. Dixon read aloud the above statement.

Elizabeth Jenkins, 111 Minnie McGriff Lane, Havana FL

Ms. Jenkins appeared before the Board to discuss re-zoning in their area. She was requesting her area to be changed back to Residential instead of Agricultural.

Commissioner Hinson stated it was Ag 3 property and one house per 20 acres. He stated he thought there was something in place where if they wanted to give a piece of property to their child, they could do that. He stated he believed it was passed about 2 or 3 years ago.

Mr. Dixon stated if they were talking about 1991, that was when they were all forced to do COMP plans. All land across the county was changed. The County had to justify its growth. They had to either show the state where they were growing, or all other properties had to go into some form of stasis. They could not call it residential if the population cannot fit the growth.

Commissioner Holt stated it was called the Family Exemption. They would have to get with the Administrator and Mr. Stiell so that way they could see if anything was changed and what needed to happen to get where they need to be.

Ralph Jenkins, 111 Minnie McGriff Lane Havana, Fl

Mr. Jenkins appeared before the Board to discuss the zoning issues in his area.

Commissioner Green stated they needed to look back at what the Ordinance was saying so they could make the necessary modifications.

Commissioner Holt stated she was still trying to get the COMP plan worked. She stated they put in 3 acres because it was easier to get a house on it. They needed to work the COMP plan and look at it.

Chairman NeSmith stated that now that they have brought that to the Commissioner's attention, the Administrator knows how to package this so that it could go through the process and see what changes they need to make.

Ms. Jenkins stated those things had restricted families from moving forward with residential growth. She stated the people of Gadsden County need training and education on this.

Denise Pouncy Hannah, Gadsden County

Ms. Hannah appeared before the Board and stated she wanted them to go look at their archives and ordinance to see how it was advertised. If they advertised that they were going to change property, then people would come. They wanted to know the date published and which paper it was in. She told the Commissioners if something was happening in their district that would impact their constituents, let them know. She also mentioned about having to walk all the way around the building and the front door being locked. She asked why it was locked.

Commissioner Hinson stated they had workshops about the COMP plan, that was why it was changed. They could add their daughter in there based on the Family Exemption.

Commissioner Holt stated it takes a while. Once they do zone changes, it has to be sent to the state.

Mr. Dixon stated the front door being locked was a security issue.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

9. Approval of Ordinance 2023-02

Chair NeSmith presented the above item. He stated this was an Ordinance of the Board of County Commissioners of Gadsden County related to the indigent burials within Gadsden County. This would add a new section to the Code of Ordinances of Gadsden County, Florida.

Mr. Dixon stated the item was related to the Indigent Burial Policy.

Chair NeSmith stated this was open to the public; he asked if anyone from the audience would like to speak on this issue.

Commissioner Holt needed clarity. She asked Attorney Knowles to give specifics on this. Attorney Knowles stated they incorporated changes that the Board requested regarding limiting who qualified for this and limiting the Board's responsibility for burying just anyone. He stated the funding would be \$5,000. It would be brought back to the Board if additional funding was needed. The next step would be to either put out an RFP or RFQ for the local funeral homes.

Commissioner Holt stated she needed clarification on what was changed from previous. She needed it to be underlined or to make it more obvious of what was changed from the last time this went before the Board.

Commissioner Green asked if the \$5,000 was for the year or what it was for. Attorney Knowles stated that was a total line item, so that would be all the money budgeted for the entire fiscal year.

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

GENERAL BUSINESS

10. Approval of Lease Agreements with the Tenants on the newly purchased property located at 2426 Pat Thomas Parkway

Mr. Dixon presented the above item.

Commissioner Hinson stated he noticed it showed \$175 per month. He asked if that was a house. Mr. Dixon stated yes; 2 of them are Lots. Commissioner Hinson also asked if the 2426A location was a house as well. Mr. Dixon stated that was a Lot.

Attorney Knowles stated there was not much changed, it was just more tightened up. Commissioner Hinson mentioned the liability part of it. Attorney Knowles stated there was sovereign immunity protection.

Commissioner Holt asked if they were doing repairs on those houses. Attorney Knowles stated there were no repairs, but issues with fence and barns.

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

11. Approval of Non-Profit Request for Funding Application and Guidelines

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. He stated it was for review and not required to be passed tonight. They will add it to the Agenda for the next meeting.

Commissioner Hinson asked if they could have a workshop on this. He still wanted to focus on infrastructure.

Commissioner Holt stated non-profits do have the ability to apply for their own funding. They did not have to go to Government for funding.

Commissioner Hinson said this was a great year for non-profit. There is a lot of funding out there to get it.

12. Approval of the Agreement with the Gadsden County Emergency and Services and ESO Regarding Fire Incidents

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. He stated the ISO ratings were reported to the fire departments. They are looking to put in place a system where they can keep in house the fire incident reports. They do not currently have that, however, their Producer who keeps their EMS has a system that would marry theirs, and they were seeking approval to adopt that system.

Commissioner Hinson stated he knew they had an issue in Havana and all over Gadsden County. He asked if Concord was penalized. Mr. Dixon stated no. It was Concord, Quincy, and Chattahoochee. The rest were penalized.

Commissioner Hinson asked how come Concord was off the hook. Mr. Dixon stated Concord was a separate entity. Commissioner Hinson asked if both parties were funded the same. Mr. Dixon stated they fund all parties involved. Since they were their own independent fire departments, they all got their own ratings.

Commissioner Green stated he recently had a meeting with volunteer fire fighters and he was trying to work out things to present to the Board.

Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Dixon if they could maybe consider getting with the school system as well, they could possibly be interested in taking the course.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she spoke with Mr. Dixon in January, so this was top priority for her. She stated they need to workshop this. She spoke with the State Marshall and they were willing to go in and tell them what they need to do to ensure that all of their stations are below the 10. She stated this was not something they could drag on; people were about to lose their insurance, especially businesses. They need to get this done within the next couple of months. They needed to put a plan together as it relates to their fire.

Commissioner Hinson asked if they could put the fire department before the non-profit. He stated this was urgent. Chair NeSmith stated consider it done.

Commissioner Green stated the Superintendent of the Schools was already on board with the process of implementing the program. So, it would be good to bring them into the workshop as well.

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

13. Approval to Extend the Integrity Group Professional Continuing Service Contract

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. He stated they have done a lot of great work with Integrity. He hoped they would consider extending the contract.

Commissioner Simpkins stated when it came to monies being spent, the amount was close to a million dollars. A Workshop needed to be scheduled. They need to sit down and go over their organizational chart. They were spending a lot of money. She wanted to believe they have someone that could develop effective project tracking for them. She wanted to believe they had that available in their staff. She said they could've done things for their citizens with the type of money they were putting out for their consulting services.

Commissioner Hinson stated the Integrity Group's focus was how much money they could bring into Gadsden County. He wanted to know what projects they have brought into Gadsden County the past 3 years. Commissioner Hinson asked if everything was 10%. Mr. Dixon stated yes. Commissioner Hinson asked why Tallahassee was not 10% for their contract. Commissioner Hinson stated he did not mind paying people for their services, he just wanted to make sure that they focus on funding that they could not get.

Commissioner Green stated they do not have staff for that type of department. The concern was if they looked for other competitors that provide these types of services. Mr. Dixon stated they did look around but they have enjoyed the relationship with them and it has been beneficial. He stated he could RFP this in the morning if that was what they wished. He stated the charges might go down but the relationship they had with them has value in it in regards to getting things done.

Chair NeSmith asked if it was a one-year contract and it would expire on March 19th, 2024. Mr. Dixon answered yes.

Commissioner Green stated if they could negotiate their percentage ratings; maybe a discount for the recurring of the contract. Mr. Dixon stated if he directs him to do that, he could talk to them.

Commissioner Holt stated she met with several companies. It was difficult to get anyone to take these contracts. The amount of federal paperwork it takes, especially during a disaster. She stated they needed to have professionals to do this; they did not have the qualifications. Commissioner Simpkins stated she heard Commissioner Hinson state that there was supposed to be finding grants and funding. She did not see it listed anywhere. It entailed administering the grant and preparing correspondence. She stated they could pull a team together with \$800,000. Everything deals with assisting and preparing of the close out packages for the grants. Mr. Dixon stated it was a federally precured contract. The RFP called for emergency management consultant for the County. The experience required was:

- Emergency Management Planning
- Financial and Grant Administration
- Emergency Management Plans, Policies, and Procedures
- Background Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program Exercises
- Experience in National Incident Command System

- Experience with the Emergency Management Agency

Mr. Dixon stated in the event that there is a disaster, they must have a team like this available otherwise they could not recover federal funds.

Commissioner Hinson stated it would be the first time since he has been on the Board that they never did an RFP on an item of this magnitude. It would send a strong message to the community if they were being consistent because they were talking about a million dollars on the line. They have never approved something without an RFP of this magnitude. Commissioner Hinson stated they need to do an RFP and then bring it back.

Chair NeSmith asked Mr. Dixon when did the current contract end with Integrity. Mr. Dixon stated the end of last month.

Commissioner Green stated they needed to do it the proper way. There are only a few selected providers in the industry, but to give them opportunities. The percentage levels may be different. He had no problem with integrity. If they stick with them, he hoped they could reconsider to have something less on the table.

Commissioner Holt stated they cannot select someone because of the price on this, they are not paying the money themselves. Whatever is done needs to be done quickly. She wanted to emphasize that if they were going to do an RFP, they need to do a short period of time. The requirements in the RFP have to meet federal standards because that is who gives the money.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned DEO Broadband tool kit project; they need a special person to overlook that since it is considered emergency. She stated she noticed that they keep mentioning have to have experience in all of it, and she asked if all the counties that received ARPA Funding had to have someone that had experience in homeland security in order to get funding. Mr. Dixon stated yes.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO SEND THIS TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO DO AN RFP FOR THIS PARTICULAR ITEM AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM. COMMISSIONER HOLT OPPOSED.

Commissioner Hinson stated the County Administrator should not put this Board in this position. The deadline was last month. If this came to them 3 months in advance, then they would've had time to see this through. He stated it was not the Board's fault, it was the County Administrator for bringing this in too late.

Commissioner Holt stated they put the County in jeopardy; they were not getting a penny because of no contract. If they go month to month, they still aren't getting a penny. If a hurricane or tornado hits, people are put in danger. They need to have coverage for citizens. She stated they can do the RFP if they want to, but they need coverage until they can get that done. It does not matter whose fault it is.

13A Dewberry Contract for Stevens School

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. It has been approved by DEO.

Commissioner Holt asked the County Administrator if the amount of this is 1.7 million. Mr. Dixon answered yes.

Commissioner Hinson said this was urgent, they need to do it quick.

Mr. Dixon stated Stevens School had been authorized as a COVID shelter. The due date is September 30th. They had been having problems with DEO.

Commissioner Holt stated she was not going to vote against it and thanked them for voting on this.

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

CLERK OF COURT

14. Updates

Nothing to report.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

15. Updates

Nothing to report.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

16. Updates

Nothing to report.

17. DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2

Commissioner Simpkins wanted to announce the Town Hall meeting in Havana on May 3rd at 6PM. She asked if an organizational workshop had been put on the schedule. Mr. Dixon stated not yet, they would schedule it alter this week. Commissioner Simpkins wanted to hope it would be this month. She asked if they were able to take a look at CDBG and Public Works grant. Mr. Dixon stated he did not recall. For the bicentennial, she asked if she was supposed to give names to Mr. Dixon. Chairman NeSmith stated yes. Commissioner Simpkins asked about the playgrounds and where they were with that. Mr. Dixon stated the engineers and Public Works were going to refresh the parks. They brought in suggestions and will get feedback from the Board on how to move forward. Commissioner Simpkins stated she needed to know exactly where they are with this on the next meeting.

Commissioner Holt asked what was the deadline for the Grant. Mr. Dixon stated just closed one.

Commissioner Simpkins stated in order to move forward, they need to put timelines.

Chair NeSmith asked if Commissioner Simpkins came up with a theme. Commissioner Simpkins stated she had given the County Administrator some awesome ideas but no theme yet. Commissioner Simpkins asked if there is a schedule as it relates to grass mowing. Mr. Young appeared before the board. He stated he would give the schedule to Mr. Dixon. Commissioner Simpkins asked about bonuses. Mr. Dixon stated he knew it was done; he will bring it up in the next meeting. Commissioner Simpkins asked where they were with Granicus. Mr. Dixon stated he would send the report in the morning.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt asked the County Administrator if someone could produce charts of what they were talking about. She stated to improve staff to get where they need to be, they need some numbers. She stated not getting good feedback on some employment opportunities. She stated there are people that are technologically savvy that could give them some of that information. Commissioner Holt stated they used to have it where the Department heads did their presentations on agenda items. They would get a lot of more information. Also, they were having workshops where the County Administrator and Department heads practiced those agenda items beforehand. She also mentioned they need a program to keep the county clean. She mentioned the speakers from earlier and their zoning issues and stated there were thousands of people in the county that also were having issues with their property. But it would not work unless Planning and Zoning Board understand what they were looking for. She stated they need to meet with them so they could understand. She stated the Commissioners should be doing research and bringing in numbers. If not, they would just be going back and forth. Chairman NeSmith asked if she came up with a theme. Commissioner Holt stated no.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5

Commissioner Green asked about Integrity. To his understanding, they were also working on a project. If they did not renew the contract, did that mean they were not going to complete the project? His vote was a no for Integrity item.

Attorney Knowles mentioned section 2-52 Sub F.

Commissioner Holt stated if he changed his vote to no, they cannot bring the item back. She stated he needed to leave it as is.

Commissioner Green stated they did not know when they were going to get the RFP; anything could happen. He wanted to make sure they were protected. He asked what if something would happen. Commissioner Green stated he would keep his vote as it was before, 4-1. Commissioner Green asked if they got a date for agenda item for summer program applications and interview. He asked Mr. Dixon where they were with this. Mr. Dixon stated applications would be out the end of the month. They were working through issues, but everything was ready for the program. He stated they would put it out in the next week or so. Commissioner

Green stated he did have his 2 people to submit to the County Administrator for the Bicentennial. He also stated he had things to email regarding the Bicentennial.

Commissioner Holt asked if there was a deadline for Broadband. Mr. Dixon stated they were completing all projects they currently have.

Commissioner Eric F. Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1

Commissioner Hinson asked the County Administrator about summer youth employment. He stated that the County Administrator stated at the last meeting that it would be out by that Friday. Two weeks later, it still had not been displayed. Mr. Dixon stated he did not say that.

Commissioner Hinson stated he had asked him to put on the agenda for Havana and Midway to be one of the recipients for funding, and the County Administrator did not do it. Mr. Dixon stated he did not have a program. Chairman NeSmith clarified with the County Administrator that the other cities submitted proposals. Mr. Dixon stated yes. Commissioner Hinson stated they did not agree to have Gretna or Chattahoochee on the Agenda. It was just on the agenda. The Board agreed to place Havana and Midway on the Agenda. It was not on there. He stated the Summer Youth Employment was near and dear to his heart. Commissioner Hinson stated Mr. Dixon needed to have a sense of urgency and did not respect the Board. When Commissioners ask him to put things on the agenda, he was not doing it. Commissioner Hinson stated the Board is supposed to give the County Administrator directives.

Commissioner Hinson stated a few years back, they did a roof for a lady. Within a year or two, water was leaking out of the roof. He stated he sent an email to staff stating that they needed to look at her roof and the floors. Commissioner Hinson stated now there was mold in her ceiling. He stated he sent it to the County Administrator; he was not sure if it was Mr. Dixon or a different one. They needed to look into this to see if they could help her out. Commissioner Hinson stated a few years back, each Commissioner had \$20,000 for Emergency Housing funds. If an elderly needed assistance, they could apply and they could get the help. Commissioner Hinson stated they should do \$50,000 for emergency housing per district.

Commissioner Holt stated that may take a while to look at that. She stated that people that specialize in housing needed to look at this as well. She stated if there was going to be a vote for it, it needed to be planned.

Chair NeSmith stated he needed to understand this more and do research so that he could implement ideas that could be long term.

Chairman Kimblin Nesmith, Chair, District 3

Chair NeSmith stated he will give the 2 names to Mr. Dixon for the Bicentennial. He wanted to thank the community and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. for an awesome event they had for expecting mothers. He also wanted to congratulate Twin City Brewery for their grand opening in the city of Chattahoochee.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she wanted to give a shoutout to Mothers Care, the minority health fair.

Commissioner Simpkins provided a quote:

“We cannot solve problems with the kind of thinking employed when we came up with them.”

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
April 18th, 2023-Regular Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH DECLARED
THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:44 P.M.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FL

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

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

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

WORKSHOP (4:30 PM)

Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance

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

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

The Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners welcomes and encourages public participation at all meetings of the Board. Citizens are free to speak for up to three (3) minutes on non-agenda items. Public comments and participation are also encouraged for items on the agenda. Additionally, if you are unable to attend a meeting in person, comments from the Public can also be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.org until noon on the date of the meeting. Comments submitted after the deadline, but prior to the meeting, will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting. Citizens are further encouraged to participate via Zoom using the credentials on the County's website. The Board's meetings are also broadcast live on the Board's Facebook page.

Chair NeSmith read aloud the above statement.

GENERAL BUSINESS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Workshop ended at 5:56 pm.

REGULAR MEETING (6:00 PM)

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

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

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

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

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

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

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

CONSENT

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

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

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

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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Mr. Dixon read aloud the above statement.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Commissioner Simpkins stepped out at 7:08PM.

Commissioner Simpkins returned at 7:10PM.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GENERAL BUSINESS

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

Mr. Dixon presented the above item.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 7:38PM.

Commissioner Holt returned at 7:40PM

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

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

Mr. Dixon presented the above item.

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

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

Item Pulled

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

Mr. Dixon presented the above item.

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

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

16. Approval of the Gadsden County Emergency Repair Program

Mr. Dixon presented the above item.

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

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

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

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

Commissioner Green stepped out at 7:52PM

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

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

Commissioner Green returned at 7:55PM

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. Dixon presented the above item.

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

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

18. Approval of Bonuses for Gadsden County Staff

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CLERK OF COURT

17. Updates

Nothing to report.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

18. Updates

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

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

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

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

COUNTY ATTORNEY

19. Updates

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

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Commissioner Hinson second the motion.

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

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

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

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

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

Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4

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

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

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

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

Commissioner Ronterious Green, Vice Chair, District 5

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

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

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

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

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

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

Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, District 3

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

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

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

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

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

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

MOTION TO ADJOURN

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

GADSDEN COUNTY, FL

KIMBLIN NESMITH, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON MAY 10, 2023 AT 4:30 PM, THE
FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

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

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair NeSmith called the special meeting order at 4:32 PM. Commissioner Green provided the Invocation and Chair NeSmith led the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Case No. 2022 CA 500

Mr. Knowles asked for motion to hire the Coppins Munroe law firm as trial counsel and will bring the contract to the Board on Tuesday to ratify what was decided at the earlier meeting.

Commissioner Simpkins appeared at 4:32 pm

Commissioner Holt mentioned “Citizens to be Heard” and Chair NeSmith asked she read the statement aloud.

Chair NeSmith asked Madam Clerk and PIO if there were any requests to be heard and there was none.

Commissioner Hinson stated there would be a ceremony on May 12th at 6:00 pm, the Havana Community Development Corporation was having a pre-dedication naming ceremony for Coach Vernell Ross and he wanted to give a Proclamation for Coach Ross for his 94th birthday.

Commissioner Holt said she did not disagree with that but asked if that was to be discussed at this time or the agenda item.

Mr. Knowles said no action was to be taken, it was just a Resolution, or a Proclamation.

Commissioner Holt asked if the meeting was advertised and Mr. Knowles stated as special meeting to discuss FCI. Commissioner Holt felt they should take care of the advertised business first and have a vote and then Commissioner Hinson could address his items.

Commissioner Holt asked about the reputation of the firm. Mr. Knowles said they come highly recommended by numerous attorneys in addition to FAC and Leon County attorney among others.

Chair NeSmith asked the Attorney about the order of the discussion because he thought they would have voted under General Business as opposed to reading “Citizens to be Heard”, which came back under General Business.

Mr. Dixon explained it was in the wrong order.

Commissioner Green asked the Attorney to give enlightenment on this item for the benefit of the listening audience.

Mr. Knowles said he reached out to the Krizner Group as well as others and this was the one that had the capacity to come in and do it and did not have a scheduling conflict.

Commissioner Hinson mentioned Attorney Louis Baptiste and mentioned he represented the Value Adjustment Board for the County.

Commissioner Holt stated to go ahead with the recommendation since they were short on time.

Chair NeSmith asked the pleasure of the Board.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT TO APPROVE COPPINS MUNROE LAW FIRM AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Hinson asked for a Proclamation for Coach Ross.

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

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

The Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners welcomes and encourages public participation at all meetings of the Board. Citizens are free to speak for up to three (3) minutes on non-agenda items. Public comments and participation are also encouraged for items on the agenda. Additionally, if you are unable to attend a meeting in person, comments from the Public can also be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.org until noon on the date of the meeting. Comments submitted after the deadline, but prior to the meeting, will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting. Citizens are further encouraged to participate via Zoom using the credentials on the County’s website. The Board’s meetings are also broadcast live on the Board’s Facebook page. Commissioner Holt read aloud the above statement.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
May 10, 2023 – Special Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH DECLARED THE SPECIAL MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:42 PM.

GADSDEN COUNTY FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk of Court

**AT A WORKSHOP OF THE PLANNING
COMMISSION HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FL ON MAY 11, 2023 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
 William Chukes, District 1, Not Present
 Tracey Stallworth, District 2
 John Youmans, District 2
 Mark Moore, District 3
 Wayne Williams, District 3
 Charles Roberts, District 4
 Karema Dudley, School Board Representative, Not present

Staff Present: **Justin Stiell, Planning and Zoning Director**
 Ellen Andrews, Senior Planner
 Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
 Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Parramore called the workshop to order at 6:01 pm. Commissioner Roberts led the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag and Commissioner Sherman provided invocation.

2. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS – ROLL CALL

No roll call was done.

3. AMENDMENT AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Parramore entertained a motion to approve the agenda as it was before them.

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS IS WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER MOORE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER STALLWORTH. THE MOTION PASSED 6 TO 0.

4. CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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Chair Parramore read aloud the above statement.

Commissioner Bouie stepped in at 6:02 pm.

GENERAL BUSINESS

5. Presentation- Gadsden County Planning: Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code

Mr. Stiell came before the Board to discuss the above item. He stated the purpose of this workshop was to familiarize the Planning Commission with the Comprehensive Plan and Future Land Use Map and planning functions. Also, to detail the relationship between the Comprehensive plan and Land Development Code, present the types of development applications, and identify county specific land use issues and challenges.

Mr. Stiell stated the goal of the Comprehensive Plan was to provide the principles, guidelines, standards and strategies for the orderly and balanced future economic, social, physical, environmental, and fiscal development of an area that reflects community commitments to implement the plan and its elements. It was required by Statute (163.3174 F.S.) for all 67 counties and 412 municipalities. It must be evaluated and updated on a periodic basis (at least once every seven years).

Mr. Stiell stated the Future Land Use Map and Future Land Use Element are one section of the Comprehensive Plan. It involves policies which guide the physical and economic development of the County and reflects County vision and goals.

Mr. Stiell stated the Land Development Code specified that within 1 year after submission of its new or revised Comprehensive Plan, each county shall adopt or amend and enforce land development regulations that are consistent with and implement its adopted Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Stiell stated the Planning Division was responsible for

- Ensuring all development applications are reviewed with respect to the Comprehensive Plan and LDC.
- Preparation of the Comprehensive Plan an LDC.
- Make recommendations to the governing body regarding the adoption or amendment of the plan, LDC, and proposed developments.
- Hold public hearings, with public notice, on the proposed plan and LDC, and proposed amendments.
- Monitor and oversee the effectiveness and status of the Comprehensive Plan.
- Appointment of Planning Commission members and facilitation of PC meetings to elicit recommendations for Board consideration.

Mr. Stiell stated the Planning Commissioner was made up of 12 members and appointed by County Commissioners. They make recommendations to the BOCC regarding:

- Adoption of Comprehensive Plan and periodic updates to the plan.
- Review proposed land development regulations, land development codes, or amendments thereto, and consider consistency of the proposal with the adopted Comprehensive Plan.

- Review of development applications, requests for changes in future land use designation, and requests for variances or waivers to the conditions of development as described in the Land Development Code and Comprehensive Plan.
- Host public hearings for legislative matters, as well as quasi-judicial matters.

Development types and approval processes

- Administrative – Staff level
- Legislative Actions --PC and BOCC
- Quasi-Judicial – PC and BOCC

Chair Parramore asked regarding Class 1 Commercial, if there were specific sizes for like a hotel or Motel. Mr. Stiell stated yes, he was going to get more into that later. He stated if there was a grocery store greater than 10,000 sq ft, then it would have to come before the planning commission.

Commissioner Roberts went back to the Land Development Code. He read aloud from page 6: “Within 1 year after submission of its new or revised comprehensive plan, each county shall adopt or amend and enforce land development regulations...” He asked what happens after that? Do they have to wait another 6 years? Or was there a process to interject before? Mr. Stiell stated no, the Land Development Code was like a mechanism which they enforce the regulations in the Comprehensive Plan, so if they have the Comprehensive Plan, they have that requirement into their Code. They would need to adopt amendment into their Land Development Code, but there would be no penalty if they do not.

Chair Parramore stated he knew there had been talk about revisiting the Land Development Use Map and updating it. He asked where were they at in this process. Mr. Stiell stated last year they started with kickoff meetings and getting some public input regarding what they want to see in the future and how to go about amending the Comprehensive Plan. The next step would be to start contacting land owners and making general announcements regarding any future Comprehensive Plan amendments.

Commissioner Stallworth asked how the conversations had been regarding citizen buy in. Mr. Stiell stated he has not had any negative comments.

Chair Parramore asked if they have an anticipated time frame for when it might be completed. Mr. Stiell stated the goal was by the year 2025.

Commissioner Sherman asked for clarity if that was the data gathering or the revision. Mr. Stiell stated it would be the revision.

Commissioner Sherman stated they have had recent discussion about parks and mobile home parks. He asked if they were they in compliance with the requirements as far as Quasi-Judicial. Mr. Stiell stated yes, he believed Commissioner Sherman was referring to the previous meeting about the RV park.

Commissioner Sherman asked if they were in compliance in the discussion with a project, he could not remember the name of. Chair Parramore stated that was the project off Reynolds

Road and McCall Bridge Road. Mr. Stiell stated that project required several different things. First thing was a Land Use Map Amendment. It was completed and got approved for the Land Use Amendment. The next step was to come in for the Special Exception Use and then after that they move on to the site plan process.

Commissioner Roberts asked if there was a possibility that someone would have to do separate ends or RV park as a whole. Mr. Stiell stated generally in RV parks they are allowed one residential caretakers cottage. There's a square foot maximum that they could not go above. That was all included in the review for the site plan.

Chair Parramore stated there was also language presented that this would be more than a caretaker's cottage and more than a laundromat that they would actually be some sort of retail sales or re-sales like a convenient store that those using the RV park could take advantage of. Mr. Stiell stated if he remembered correctly, that was only a laundromat connected to the caretaker's cottage. He wanted to double check with Ms. Ellen. Ms. Ellen stated at one point she believed they were considering a camp store. She was not currently seeing what they are proposing. Mr. Stiell stated as long as it was associated with the RV park, then it would be ok. As long as they stayed underneath that square footage.

Commissioner Sherman stated he wanted to verify that they were in compliance with what they were tasked with doing; given the number of things that were still yet to be defined. He asked if there were other actions that this Commission should take to make sure that they were in alignment with what their tasks were. Mr. Stiell asked for clarification on which project. Chair Parramore stated they were still on the Reynolds Road project.

Commissioner Roberts stated the issue the neighbors had was the bolt slips. Chair Parramore stated there was a number of issues brought up at the time regarding wetland preservation regarding the setbacks from the neighboring trailer park that the property backs up to. He stated they did their due diligence on voting on what they were required to vote on and then it went to the County Commission. They were in the second phase of that process to see what they bring back to them as a site plan/site use.

Mr. Stiell stated they had not received anything officially regarding the project. He stated it would come back before them again as a special exception use, depending on what they choose to do. It could also come back to them as a Class II or Class I.

Chair Parramore stated for clarity purposes, it will not be to re-discuss and re-litigate what was already taken place. Mr. Stiell stated correct.

Commissioner Bouie asked in the event that a person comes before the County Commission and all requirements were met, if they have a room full of residents in that community and they do not want the project, were they allowed to vote with the citizens? Mr. Stiell stated the requirement for Quasi-Judicial was to take into consideration of what evidence was provided and the consistency with the Land Development Code and Comprehensive Plan.

Attorney Knowles stated when dealing with Quasi-Judicial, they needed to make sure the Commission looks at all the evidence and makes a decision based on the evidence provided.

Commissioner Bouie asked if all the neighbors were present and they signed saying they did not want the project in their community, was that considered evidence? Attorney Knowles stated that would be one piece of evidence, but advised to not make the decision based solely upon that.

Chair Parramore asked Attorney Knowles if it was safe to say that in the Quasi-Judicial hearings, this commission could bet safely on if they made judgements based within the confines of statute and the Land Development Code and County Ordinances, it would be their safe space. Attorney Knowles stated correct. The neighbors could not like it, but it could be reasonable.

Chair Parramore asked if in a case where he was drawn in by public sympathy and empathy, outside of what the Land Development Code and County Ordinances are, and he did not feel like he could vote appropriately, was it appropriate to recuse himself from that vote? Attorney Knowles stated no because recusal was more of a conflict.

Chair Parramore stated if he was correct, when they vote on a Quasi-Judicial issue, they have to state specifically what that decision is and what supports that decision. Attorney Knowles stated yes, expanding on why they make a decision. He encouraged for them to have more participation than less.

Commissioner Sherman stated if there was an overwhelming objection from the neighborhood, but the law written does not present a method to further that objection, it sounds like their hands were tied. But, reaching out to the citizens, what mechanisms would they have? Attorney Knowles stated in a Quasi-Judicial, it was not required but advised to let it be known on the record that they had a conversation with the applicant for instance. He stated they were able to have conversations with the citizens.

Commissioner Roberts asked regarding page 16 under Institutional, it stated nursing home and under Commercial, it stated adult daycare or living facilities. He asked if they had a written definition of what each one of those are. Mr. Stiell stated yes, it should be in the Land Development Code under the definition chapter.

Commissioner Moore asked to go back to Quasi-Judicial. He stated it was mentioned that they need to make a public statement that they had talked to citizens. If people call him and it was something that they knew would come up to the Board, should they ignore those conversations or if they should have them and when it comes time for the hearing, they said they had those conversations with citizens? Attorney Knowles stated in Quasi-Judicial, if they had a conversation with the applicant then they would announce that. Neighbors are not the issue in Quasi-Judicial, just the folks applying for whatever they were trying to do.

Commissioner Bouie stated when she received phone calls, she would announce that she received them. She would listen to every citizen. She asked in the lack of a good application, were they required to vote in favor of a bad application or applicant. Mr. Stiell stated what the staff presents to them are the facts from the case. It was up to the Commissioners to make the decision.

Commissioner Bouie stated in the past, County Commissioners had tried to protect citizens by granting temporary permit. She asked how do they offer protection for their citizens. Mr. Stiell stated that went back to the conversation with their neighborhood compatibility. They were granting them an opportunity to change to whatever they want to change it to once they change the Land Use. As long as they met all the other requirements, then they would have to look at the site plan and make a decision based on the evidence.

Chair Parramore stated he would like to thank Mr. Stiell and Staff for this presentation. He stated he was the one who requested this workshop from the last meeting. He stated it was good to have a refresher.

6. PLANNING DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

No comments.

7. PLANNING COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Commissioner Sherman stated the more training and refreshers they had the better they are as far as their role to the citizens.

Commissioner Stallworth asked Mr. Stiell if there were any monies allocated for them to go to a workshop in another area. Mr. Stiell stated currently there was no funding for Planning Commissioners to travel. They were looking to bring some people in for training. Commissioner Stallworth asked in order for them to get funding to travel, who did they need to talk to? Mr. Stiell stated they were working on that and they had a conversation on this a couple meetings ago. They have talked to their Budget Director and are looking at what they could do as an alternative. Commissioner Stallworth stated he had spoken to a commissioner and they indicated that there was some funding. He would love for the commissioners to be able to travel to get some training. Commissioner Bouie stated if they could, she could make them aware of where the conferences are and the proposal of the costs and present it to the County Commission to ask them to make it available for them to travel. She stated the same funding they would use to bring a professional in, they could use it for travel.

Commissioner Bouie also asked about FLUM. She stated she heard comments about the County to remain Agricultural, but there are only 3 major farmers in Gadsden County. She stated it would be a disservice to the County since there are only 3. She hoped that they would be open to other uses of FLUM other than farming. Commissioner Roberts stated he agreed with Commissioner Bouie about there only being 3 major farmers, but the residential portion and rural areas want to keep it that way, instead of having pop up business in their communities.

Chair Parramore stated obviously they have to respect those land owners. There was no authority for the County to just go in and start yanking property and change the land use. He did not know if there was a solution to what Commissioner Roberts brought up. Mr. Stiell stated that was why it was not a quick turnaround.

Commissioner Bouie stated in the past, the Planning Director hired the only organization that opposed the State of Florida to create their land and zone policies. There were policies that restricted local land owners. She stated the restrictions that were in place should not come from a Miami based firm that has no idea what Gadsden County looks like. Mr. Stiell stated the majority of the policies that he has seen in the Comprehensive plan are supported by state

statute. He was not sure what policies Commissioner Bouie was referring to. Commissioner Bouie stated not being able to subdivide a property and needing a certain size of property. There were also issues with giving kids equal portions of land. Those were just some examples.

Chair Parramore and the Commissioners thanked Mr. Stiell for his time. Chair Parramore stated the next meeting will be June 15th at 6 pm.

8. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Chair Parramore ended the workshop at 7:10 pm.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is June 15th, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

JOE PARRAMORE, Chair

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT A WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FL ON MAY 15TH, 2023 AT 5:00 P.M.,
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

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

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair NeSmith started the workshop at 5:00 pm. Commissioner Hinson provided invocation and Chair NeSmith led into the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD (3-Minute Limit)

The Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners welcomes and encourages public participation at all meetings of the Board. Citizens are free to speak for up to three (3) minutes on non-agenda items. Public comments and participation are also encouraged for items on the agenda. Additionally, if you are unable to attend a meeting in person, comments from the Public can also be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until noon on the date of the meeting. Comments submitted after the deadline, but prior to the meeting, will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting. Citizens are further encouraged to participate via Zoom using the credentials on the County's website. The Board's meetings are also broadcast live on the Board's Facebook page.

Mr. Dixon read aloud the above statement.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Discussion of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)/CARES Funds

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. He stated today was more of a discussion to present ideas and go forward from there. He asked Ms. Daniels to come forward.

Commissioner Green stated he would have to leave early.

Commissioner Holt asked if they would do the presentation first and then have a discussion? Chair NeSmith stated yes. Commissioner Holt stated she had another meeting that was already scheduled and she would try to stay as long as she could.

Ms. Daniels stated the workshop was initially supposed to be related to ARPA but also provided information on CARES Act. She stated the differences between them was that the funding for ARPA was provided directly to Gadsden County from the U.S. Department of Treasury. It was not administered through the State of Florida, as the CARES funding. She went through the rest of the presentation.

Commissioner Green asked for clarification. He asked if the project's funding dashboard was from the ARPA or CARES? Ms. Daniels stated ARPA. She stated under CARES they could not do non-profit allocations.

Chair NeSmith asked if it was American Rescue that funded the food cards. Ms. Daniels stated yes.

Ms. Daniels stated the current/ recent obligations for ARPA:

- Department of Elderly Affairs \$475,000
- Emergency Repair Program \$300,000
- County-Wide Bonus Program \$730,000
- Ambulance Chassis (remaining balance) \$59,398

Total was \$1,564,398

Funds pending obligation:

Total ARPA funds awarded: \$8,868,920.00. Remaining funds pending obligation: \$3,833,548.99

Ms. Daniels moved on to the CARES ACT presentation. The CARES Act established the \$150 billion Coronavirus Relief Fund. As a result of the CARES ACT, Gadsden County was awarded a total of \$7,967,316 related to COVID-19.

Commissioner Hinson asked Chair NeSmith about the \$926,055 for the County Public Health Expenses. He asked if they could break down the expenses. Chair NeSmith stated they would go back to his question after the presentation.

Ms. Daniels stated the total project funding under CARES Act plan was \$4,858,404.28. She stated total CARES Funds rewarded was \$7,967,316. The CARES ACT (GENERAL FUND) Remaining Allocation was \$984,418.93. The ARPA Remaining Allocation was \$3,833,548.99.

Ms. Daniels stated the total direct funding under CARES. The total was \$243,441.29.

Commissioner Holt asked a question regarding the recommendations sheet. She asked about evaluating all parks so that way they could see what they need at all the parks. She stated they would have to research as Commissioners as to what they are doing in other areas in order for them to make sound decisions.

Commissioner Hinson stated he wanted to make sure people know they have a County Administrator that would be able to find information for them as well. He asked about the chamber redesign and if it was complete. Ms. Daniels stated they were pretty much complete but there were items they were still working on. She stated it was 95% complete. Commissioner Hinson asked where did the \$150,000 go towards. Ms. Daniels stated a lot of the money went into the audio issue. The room had to be completely reconfigured.

Commissioner Hinson also asked about the expenses for County Public Health. He was curious as to how the \$926,055.12 was distributed. Ms. Daniels stated she had a previous presentation that was given by Integrity group that had a lot of that information.

Commissioner Hinson mentioned the County-wide bonus program. He asked how much did they have in their general fund. Ms. Daniels stated about 5 million. Commissioner Hinson stated he thought they

should take it out of the general funds so they could continue to be more creative with the ARPA funds. Ms. Daniels stated the balance of those funds are still in the ARPA funds.

Commissioner Green stated he wanted to know the percentage given to Integrity and if it was negotiable. Mr. Dixon stated there was no percentage at this time. They were not contractually obligated to them. Commissioner Green asked if he knew the percentage for the \$795,000 with Integrity. Mr. Dixon stated 10%. Commissioner Green asked will they be able to negotiate the 10%. He asked how would they administer the program that they were about to implement. Mr. Dixon stated it depended on the program and complexity.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she wanted to request a copy of what the Federal government required for qualifications to administer those funds.

Mr. Dixon went over the ARPA/CARES Recommendations sheet for 2023-2024.

Commissioner Green asked how soon were they planning to have the next meeting? He asked if could they utilize some of the funding for the volunteer fire services. Mr. Dixon stated yes, they could. Mr. Dixon stated they planned to have the next meeting in the next 10 days.

Commissioner Hinson asked regarding volunteer fire departments, how much they planned on spending?

Commissioner Green stated his concern was the attraction in getting people engaged to volunteer.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she wanted them to fund the Boys and Girls Club but also wanted to make sure that they were considering they were not the only ones providing services for their youth. She stated the \$500,000 was good for them.

Commissioner Hinson asked if they were going to build their own Boys and Girls Club. He asked if they were creating a plan like they did for Senior Services to create a non-profit for the Boys and Girls Club in Gadsden County. Chair NeSmith stated they had the opportunity to do that.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she had done research on how the County had spent their ARPA funding. She stated they needed to put some funds towards marketing for the County. Commissioner Simpkins stated they need cameras to help citizens love where they live. She stated she thought that the \$475,000 for the Elderly Affairs included doing upgrades. She stated she did not see anything for parks on the sheet.

Chair NeSmith stated the County Administrator had gone to various parks to upgrade them. He asked Mr. Dixon if parks were included in the community centers. Mr. Dixon stated they did not have it as a recurring line item. They wanted to reevaluate every park. Chair NeSmith asked with existing parks, did they have a grant writer that could procure current funding for parks. Mr. Dixon stated they were looking for one right now.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned at-risk youth. They needed to set something aside for them and put some type of funding there.

Commissioner Holt stated they had employees before that wrote grants. She stated they need a consultant in there for Comprehensive Plan. She stated they also need to look at the Comprehensive

Plan for small housing. Commissioner Holt stated they need an account to move their businesses there.

Chair NeSmith asked the County Administrator when was the last time the County had developed the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Dixon stated it was no longer developed, just amended.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she agreed that the infrastructure piece was important but also believed they needed to make sure they have funds available. She would like to see the Parks and Rec.

Commissioner Hinson stated he agreed with Parks and Recs. He asked what was the price for solar lights. Mr. Dixon asked how would they decide which areas for solar lighting. Commissioner Hinson stated once they determine the cost. Mr. Dixon stated the lights would be unaffordable from Talquin.

Chair NeSmith asked Mr. Dixon about the deadline for ARPA Funds. Mr. Dixon stated December 24th. He asked if there was a deadline for the million dollars CARES funding. Mr. Dixon stated that had already rolled over and changed.

Commissioner Hinson asked Commissioner Simpkins if the County owns any of the land in St. Hebrews. Commissioner Simpkins stated she was not sure she would have to check.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH DECLARED THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED AT 6:52 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**KIMBLIN NESMITH, 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 16, 2023 AT 6:00 PM, THE
FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

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

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair NeSmith called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm, asked for a moment of silence and then 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 19A-Approval of Funding to Support National Homeownership Month, Item 19B---Update on Bicentennial Celebration and Item 19c-Approval of the Engagement Letter and Fee Structure with Coppins Monroe, PA for Case #2022 CA 500 (FCI v. Gadsden County, FL). Mr. Knowles requested that item be moved to 16A.

Commissioner Hinson stated Item 19a had a fiscal impact of \$20,000 and asked if it had to be advertised first since it was under the threshold of \$35,000. Chair NeSmith asked to give the attorney a chance to review. Mr. Knowles suggested to approve the Agenda with the item and if need to pull, they could do so when they got to that item.

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

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

- 1. Proclamation Recognizing EMS Week**
Mr. Dixon said this was EMS week, Chair NeSmith read the Proclamation aloud and was then presented to the EMS workers present. Chair presented the Proclamation to EMS persons. Chief Kris Hood thanked the Board on behalf of the EMS workers for the support provided to the EMS workers.

- 2. Proclamation Recognizing Public Works Week**
Mr. Dixon said the next Proclamation was recognizing Public Works Week. Chair NeSmith read aloud the Proclamation and then presented it to Director Curtis Young. Mr. Young thanked his staff and the board for their support.

- 3. Mental Health Awareness Month Proclamation**
Mr. Dixon said the next item was a Proclamation recognizing Mental Health Awareness Month and asked if there was a representative to receive the proclamation. Chair NeSmith read the proclamation aloud and it was presented to Ms. McMillan and Rev. Hannah.

4. **Family Abduction Awareness Day – May 25th Proclamation**

Mr. Dixon said the next day was a Proclamation for Family Abduction Awareness day but no one was present to receive the Proclamation.

5. **Recognition of Ms. Cathy Johnson**

Mr. Dixon said next was the recognition of Ms. Cathy Johnson by Commissioner Eric Hinson. Commissioner Hinson gave a little background and then read aloud the read aloud the Recognition. Ms. Johnson spoke a few words.

6. **Update on the 2023 Employee Climate Survey**

Mr. Dixon presented the above item.

Becky Maas, Director of Human Resources, appeared before the Board to discuss the update on the 2023 Employee Climate Survey.

Commissioner Hinson asked if they asked for names on the survey and Ms. Maas stated no, it was completely confidential.

Commissioner Simpkins asked what was the total number of people surveyed. Ms. Maas stated 136. Commissioner Simpkins asked if the survey included certain departments. Ms. Maas stated they did not know what 136 responded and there is a total of 220 employees.

Commissioner Green asked if everyone had adequate amount of time to do the survey and Ms. Maas stated correct.

Commissioner Hinson asked why 100+ employees did not do the survey. Ms. Maas said 60% of employees the responded, they have OPS employees that may not been working that week or EMS workers off that period of time.

Commissioner Holt asked if the survey could be done at the beginning of the year or fiscal year.

Commissioner Hinson stated he was ok for once a year,

CONSENT

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECONDE BY CHAIR NESMITH, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

Holt/NeSmith 5-0

Commissioner Hinson asked if Mr. Dixon could give a brief summary regarding Item 13. Mr. Dixon read through the item. Commissioner Hinson stated he believed in public-private partnership.

7. **Ratification Memo**

8. **Approval of Minutes**

a) **BOCC Meeting Minutes:**

a. **April 18, 2023 Regular Meeting**

9. **Approval of the EAP Services Contract with Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare**
10. **Sheriff's Office – Training Funding Request (Florida Association of School Resource Officers - 44th Training Conference)**
11. **Acceptance and Signature of the Spring 2023 E911 Rural County Grant Award Agreement for E911 System and MapSAG Annual Support and Maintenance**
12. **Approval and Signature(s) for Satisfaction of Special Assessment Lien**
13. **Approval of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between Gadsden County and Second Harvest of the Big Bend**
14. **HCA Florida Capital Hospital Request to Replace the Existing Nurse Call System at the Gadsden Facility**
15. **Approval to Apply for the Historic Preservation Grant for the Gadsden County Courthouse**

Items Pulled for Discussion

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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Chair NeSmith read aloud the above statement.

Bishop Willie C Green, 296 Bradwell Rd Quincy, FL

Bishop Willie C. Green appeared before the Board and asked about the items that were added to agenda at beginning of the meeting and citizens would not be able to read through the items once added during meeting. How will they allow for discussion on the item if it was not on the agenda?

Chair NeSmith stated typically they frown upon items added at last minute but sometimes there are items that need to be addressed that come after agenda approved and Administrator deems important enough to keep business of County moving forward. If it has fiscal costs or something that does not need to be responded to at that moment, they have the right to table the item and bring it back at a later date.

Bishop Green said once they add items, how would the public know what those items were after they were added to the agenda and if they wanted to speak on any of those items, would allowances be made so he could speak?

Mr. Knowles said if any citizen wanted to speak on an item after announced, they have the right to do so when the item comes up.

Sherrie Taylor, 217 W Clark St. Quincy, FL

Ms. Taylor asked for an update regarding the funding for Gadsden Wellness. He met with staff with regards to funding that was approved. She read comments made by the Administrator after the meeting and thought they had different opinion as to what came from meeting. She said they talked about meeting with the funding agency, talked about partnership, but one statement made in the information to the Commissioners, she had a difference of the opinion. She said it was not a refusal in signing the agreement but indicated they were applying for the grant and so was the County to some degree and he wanted to come back to the Board. In his email to the Board, he indicated that the second meeting in May, the item would be placed on the agenda and it was not. She said she shared at the meeting she would be applying. It was stated at the meeting by a couple of commissioners if she applied and received the grant, she would have to return the \$45,000. She asked when it could be placed on the agenda, when they could have discussions so the much-needed funding could go to the seniors at her program. Also, at the meeting where the funding was approved, there were two concerns echoed by two commissioners: 1) sustainability and she said she would present a letter from her bank of 25 years to the Administrator's Office tomorrow morning to show sustainability; and 2) process; she had nothing to do with the removal or the way the grant was given to them, she was only trying to make sure the funding stayed in Gadsden County.

Mr. Dixon stated if the Commissioners would like to agenda this they could. He and the attorney were present and Ms. Taylor did not sign the document and informed them she was a the and applying to the same program the County was. What he understood the Board to say with that, she did not qualify and did not sign the document saying she would not compete and therefore was nothing to bring before the Board.

Ms. Taylor said she was more than willing to sign as is but when she indicated to the Administrator she was applying, he said he was uncomfortable moving forward and would rather take it back to the Board. She stated she told the Board verbatim she was applying and the Agreement was taken off by the Administrator, not by her.

Chair NeSmith asked if there were terms in the agreement she disagreed with because the grant she was applying for was the same grant the Board was applying for. She said yes. Chair NeSmith said that violated the Noncompete clause and she said they were at a stalemate because of whether or not the Board could apply because of the stipulation outlined by the granting agency. The stipulation indicated that they have to be a 501c3 and present documentation indicating such, have to have the necessary experience and present information indicating as much and a couple of other items the funding agency had put in the RFP. One very profound one was no governmental agency could apply, it had to be a nonprofit. Those were bullet points the County could not get around. She stated she felt comfortable applying for the grant because she knew based on the qualifications, the County could not apply.

Chair NeSmith said this was obviously more complicated than they had time to address. He did not think the Commissioners were aware of the qualifications to obtain the grant and would require research on behalf of the Board members.

Commissioner Hinson stated the item should come before the Board so they could look at it.

Commissioner Holt said if Ms. Taylor was applying for the same grant the Board was applying for, then she could not have the money. If she was applying for that money, then she did not need money from the County in order to apply,

Mr. Dixon stated what Ms. Taylor said was her interpretation of what she believed was in a document. That is not what the contract called for, it clearly stated if the County deemed it necessary for her not to compete in this grant, then she would not, not for her to determine if the County was qualified or eligible to compete or not. Those were the simple terms put forth by the Board.

Commissioner Hinson stated they need public-private partnership. This was costing the County almost \$500,000 plus another \$100,000 that they did not have to pay in the past. They need to embrace public-private partnerships more. He felt it was fair to her and the community to have this item placed on the agenda.

Chair NeSmith said research should have taken place before being placed on the agenda and was more interested in having research to sit with the Administrator and Attorney to see what language was being discussed because of the different level of interpretation. They need background before moving forward.

Ms. Taylor stated that the County Administrator stated the same. She said apparently some of the same people were telling them two different things and need a meeting with the funding agency to get clarity and have total understanding. Also, in the same meeting, there was language to drawn up stating the County not to apply for a grant to keep someone else from applying.

Commissioner Green stated it was a needed conversation. He wanted to get clarity that the County was applying and the way they were applying. He stated it was their job to take care of their citizens holistically.

Mr. Dixon stated the characterization that Ms. Taylor put on for discussion was severely misleading. Both their attorney and her attorney talked back and forth about possibilities. He made it clear that the document that was before them was what the Board asked in a Board meeting and was interpreted very clearly. It was not an attempt to keep Ms. Taylor from receiving funds. It was an attempt to keep her from competing with the County. It was her interpretation of what the Area on Agency was saying.

Commissioner Holt stated if it was going to be brought back, the research could be verified before anything was put on the agenda.

Ms. Taylor stated she was glad they were going to take the initiative to work through the details.

Chair NeSmith thought there were a lot of questions from the discussion but he had to move the meeting forward.

Commissioner Hinson stated she should be able to ask the Attorney a question.

Chair NeSmith stated he needed to move the meeting forward.

Pastor Kenneth Frame, 120 McArthur St.

Pastor Kenneth Frame, 120 McArthur Street, Quincy, FL presented a poem for this county.

Commissioner Simpkins stated the poem was awesome. It was fitting especially with the Bicentennial. She wanted to make sure they had his contact information.

Commissioner Green stated he already had the chance to meet with Pastor Frame. He thanked the Pastor for coming.

Commissioner Holt stated it was a beautiful poem. She said it would be great for marketing.

Pastor Frame stated he wrote it for tourism in the County.

Commissioner Hinson thanked Pastor Frame.

Commissioner Holt stated she wanted to invite him to a TDC meeting.

Commissioner Green stated for him to consider radio ads.

Public Hearings

General Business

16. LAP Multi-Project CEI – Task Orders

Mr. Dixon presented the above item and said it was for Board approval to execute task orders with AECOM, Inc. for the CEI services of the Multi Local Agency Program projects (LAP).

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

16A Approval of the Engagement Letter and Fee Structure with Coppins/Monroe PA for Case No. 2022 CA 500 (FCI v. Gadsden County)

Mr. Knowles stated this was presented for approval and ratification of the Engagement Letter and Fee Structure with Coppins Monroe, P.A. for representation in matters pertaining to litigation with FCI.

Zack Scharleep, Esquire with Coppins Monroe, appeared before the Board and said a few words.

Commissioner Hinson stepped out at 7:27 pm.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER GREEN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.

17. Gadsden County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Mr. Dixon presented the above item and stated it was for approval to appoint members to serve on the Gadsden County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. He asked for names from the commissioners as soon as possible.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.

18. Approval of Billing Variance Payment to Capital Health Plan

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said would be presented by Becky Maas, Director of Human Resources.

Ms. Maas appeared before the Board and asked for approval to issue payment to CHP in the amount of \$77,369.94 for a billing variance as a result of unpaid premiums due to employee terminations that had not been processed in a start its timely basis. She said this was for the time period between July 2021 and November 2022.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 7:31 pm

Commissioner Simpkins asked if CHP billed on a monthly basis. Ms. Maas stated yes. If they were billing on a monthly basis and it goes back to November 2022 for premiums incurred between July 2021 to November 2022 and they were now in May, they were just figuring out that this amount was owed? Ms. Maas said no, it was brought to their attention during the transition period and was originally a much higher amount. They have worked to reduce that amount by doing research to see what communication had been provided to CHP or if there were any discrepancies on their end. That resulted in the original amount of the variance being approximately \$140,000 and working with the clerk's office and the CHP representative, they were able to reduce it to the amount of \$77,369 94.

Commissioner Holt returned at 7:32 pm.

Commissioner Simpkins asked the County Administrator if they received any type of communication from CHP prior to Ms. Maas coming on since this went back to July or since the Clerk actually makes the payment, were they aware of this and did they try to take care of it prior to her coming on. Also, how has it been rectified so the problem does not occur again.

Mr. Dixon stated this was one of the problems they found in going through HR and literally dismantling HR and beginning to put it back together. One problem was in billing between the Clerk's Office, the County Office and the representative, there was a breakdown in the County office with their staff. They did not deal properly or reply to billing properly and have since worked intimately with the Clerk's Office on this issue with their representative, Al Lawson, who represented CHP and with CHP. They had to go through every process they had in terms of insurance and benefits. As they come across situations, they are rectifying them and putting processes in place where it does not happen again. He said part of it was in the house and part was the lack of communication between the parties. He said they tried hard to get along with the Clerk's Office because it is important on small things as well as big things. This was one of the issues with the lack of communication resulted in them not taking care of our spotting

problems when they pop up. They believe a process has been put in place now that will rectify this situation.

Commissioner Simpkins stated when information is sent from the Clerk, was there a communication before her time when he saw there was some type of discrepancy, was there communication they were included on.

Mr. Dixon stated at this level this was a problem Ms. Maas found due to her professionalism and great ability that she brought to Gadsden County in going through every one of the benefits. He said as he understood, the process the Clerk's Office reviewed did not help the situation. It was not a "blame thing".

Commissioner Simpkins said reading "upon going through the previously unopened mail, it was discovered" and that bothered her and she asked if they only receive notifications through the mail and not electronically?

Ms. Maas said during the transition between the former employee and herself, there was a consultant there for a period of time. When she was going through back mail, she discovered that. They do have many checks and balances in place now to avoid this happening again and with the collaborative relationships that have been built with the Clerk's Office has been invaluable to putting those in place. That is a very strong relationship she now values very much. She has personally met with the CHP representative and have a strong relationship with them. They did not have that in the past. As Mr. Dixon referenced, it was a result of inefficiencies and a lack of communication with the other players. They now have checks and balances now and working collaboratively with the Clerk's Office, with CHP and get communication from them in writing and electronically. The Clerk's Office receives that information electronically and multiple players are involved. They are reconciling on a monthly basis which is what should have been happening to avoid this problem ever occurring. When there are issues that pop up now from time to time with benefits, as they do, they are being addressed immediately and were not in the past.

Commissioner Holt stated it was a good thing they had those guidelines in place now and was hopeful they will have other people in place to help with this so they can keep up with the money better.

Commissioner Green stated he recalled individuals who were there during the transitional moments and asked if any way possible, they could they get lists of other findings of things so they would not be caught off guard when the issues or coming.

Commissioner Hinson asked if there were any findings in the audit report.

Mr. Dixon stated they had not done this audit yet and there was nothing signaling things were out of whack. It was an internal thing.

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

19. Approval of the Inter-local Fire and Rescue Service Agreement between Gadsden County and the City of Quincy

Mr. Dixon presented the above item and stated they have been in conversation with the city of Quincy with regards to fire protection. Information has been submitted to the County, the County had responded to them and have met a number of times. They have increasing cost, a lot due to personnel costs and inflation that they are experiencing. They provide service County-wide and have not had an increase in quite some time. Through negotiations they have come up with an increase of \$31,656 in funding over their less contract. This contract is for two years.

Commissioner Hinson stated it was great idea but, they need to make sure they have conversations with everyone. He stated people were misled easily and they needed to have a conversation with all the fire departments.

Mr. Dixon stated they have approved all the other fire departments except Quincy. They were all held to their current budget except Chattahoochee.

Commissioner Hinson stated they need to have a conversation. The County Administrator could tell them what they suggest.

Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Dixon if the others were already done and he stated yes. She said City of Quincy has to go to all the fires in the County. She said they should negotiate all the departments at the same time so they become have the contracts done at the same time. This needs to be approved go ahead and have what is needed in the contracts.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND FOR DISCUSSION.

Commissioner Simpkins stated the City of Quincy services quite a few calls in the unincorporated areas and the amount may not be the amount they need in order for them to expand that. She asked if the contract with them expired and Mr. Dixon stated the contract is just what is said in the analysis, in the interim, a longer-term agreement will be reached.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she agreed with Commissioner Hinson. When the numbers are coming and they are going into an agreement, let the board decided they want to give them \$100,000 or not. Bring it to the table and give them the opportunity to have that conversation. She agreed that they need additional funding, but for the future, she believed when numbers were being discussed, those numbers should come before the Board and let them make that decision.

Chair NeSmith asked Mr. Dixon if they currently had an agreement with the City of Quincy.

Mr. Dixon stated no, it expired last year.

Commissioner Hinson stated the City of Quincy currently receives \$486,688 and will increase \$31,656 to be a total of \$518,344. He asked how many fire departments there were in the County and Mr. Dixon stated 11.

Holt stated need to go ahead and vote. Need to look at that increase because of the services they provide. Need to beef up the training program.

Commissioner Hinson stated he did not want anyone to think the commissioners did not believe in protecting the citizens. He believed in a process that they are a Board and should give directives to the County Administrator. He did not disagree but wanted to clarify because if he did and it would be as if they were going against the fire department.

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

19A Request from SHIP Housing program.

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and it was for approval to support the Second Housing Symposium and fair on June 10, 2023 at the Gadsden County Courthouse from 10 am – 3 pm..

Mr. Knowles stated the line item listed in the agenda item does not presently have the \$20,000 and in order to fund that fund, a budget amendment would need to be brought back to the Board for ratification. He explained they were approving the expenditure of the money without moving the money. The money would need to be moved by separate action of the board.

Chair NeSmith stated this goes back to a point commissioner holt made earlier, they needed to budget these items early.

Commissioner Hinson stated the only reason he was supporting this was because it was below the threshold of \$35,000.

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

Commissioner Green stated there would be things they would have to amend occasionally and this was a good item to amend the budget for.

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

19B Update on Bicentennial Committee Meeting

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was an update on the Bicentennial Committee Meeting and they met on April 24th and May 2nd. Themes were presented for the Board to review and approve. Different activities were discussed and the different events should be spread out throughout the county.

Charles Hayes appeared before the Board and said the overall consensus for approval of the theme is “200 years Our Community, Our Story”.

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

Commissioner Holt stated she had been in contact with a screenwriter and he was very interested and she will keep the board apprised.

CLERK OF COURT

20. Updates

There were no updates.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

21. Updates

There were no updates.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

22. Updates

Mr. Knowles stated he had a question for the Board. He needed Board directive to adopt an Ordinance regarding the Emergency Housing Program. The Clerk had sent out an email requesting the Board adopt an Ordinance that would codify that program and was brought to them before he came on board around 2017 or 2018. He asked for Board direction and if they wanted to adopt, they could use the one previously presented and bring it for review and later adoption.

Commissioner Holt stated that was fine, bring it back and they could review it.

Mr. Knowles stated he would bring it back to them.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

23. Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2

Commissioner Simpkins stated she received a request for a bridge to be named in memory of Earline Chandler on CR 159. She stated the name was Attapulcus Creek Bridge. She asked the protocol for that.

Mr. Knowles stated he and Ms. Bradley had been working on that and will bring it to the Board for ratification.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if they needed to add additional workers with the mowing.

Mr. Dixon stated they have had 4 mowers down the past two weeks.

Commissioner Hinson asked if they had a process in place where they know what area they would be mowing.

Commissioner Holt stated over time they have hired an extra mowing crew.

Commissioner Simpkins stated the Attapulgus Highway had to go back for a re-bid and asked for updates on the railroad track and also the SCOP and SCRAP that was put in for Dogtown Road.

Mr. Dixon stated there was more info on the railroad track that came in today and he would let her know.

Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt stated she hoped to get with the Economic Development Council and locate records and information when they were employed to go out to industrial commercial sites. There were approximately 20 certified sites and a lot of research has already been done.

Agenda Request Items

She said they need to consider procedures for placing items on the Agenda.

Commissioner Simpkins said as long as the information is gotten in 10 days prior, they could request an item on the Agenda.

Commissioner Holt said they have had in the past, where different Commissioners ask for the same thing done different ways.

Mr. Knowles said all requests for Agenda items were to be presented to the County Administrator no later than 9:00 am at least 7 days prior to the meeting that item is to be presented with all appropriate backup materials sufficient to warrant the discussion.

Commissioner Holt said she was glad he read that because he said “with all supporting documentation” and that’s not happening.

Commissioner Hinson said he has been on the Board few years and when he brought Summer Youth Employment jobs, he brought the information. He said Commissioner Simpkins asked four months ago for the Administrator to bring the staffing plan and asked if she had to do research on that matter. With other County Administrators, if something was asked for, it was seen the following meeting.

Commissioner Holt said if a formal vote was taken it would be on there but that was not what she was saying. Until they become better prepared, it will not move as quickly as needed to.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5

Commissioner Green asked Mr. Dixon about an update for Stevens School. Mr. Dixon stated they were currently up to date. There have been delays due to DEO and they could ask for an extension and have done so. They are continuing to keep the same pace to close asap and was shooting for the September 30th deadline.

Commissioner Green asked if he had heard back about the extension. Mr. Dixon said they had asked for the extension and have not heard back yet.

Commissioner Green stated Shiloh Community would be having May Day also and was asking for \$500.00. He asked the Board to support him to give them \$500.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO GIVE SHILOH COMMUNITY \$500 FOR THEIR MAY DAY PROGRAM AND MOTION FAILED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

Chair NeSmith asked Commissioner Green to put in a motion to provide tents and other items needed for the Shiloh Community.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO PROVIDE TENTS AND OTHER ITEMS FOR THE SHILOH COMMUNITY AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Hinson mentioned in the past, directors were present at the meetings in case there were questions.

Commissioner Green stated he will host a District 5 Town Hall meeting next Tuesday, May 23rd at the Senior Citizen Building at 6:00 pm.

Mr. Dixon said he met with the Regional Director of USDA the day before and went through issues. They have requested technical services from them for services. He understood the meeting went flawlessly.

Commissioner Simpkins stepped out at 8:59 pm

Commissioner Eric Hinson, Vice-Chair, District 1

Commissioner Hinson said on next Saturday there would be a mega reunion at Havana Northside High School.

Commissioner Simpkins returned at 9:01 pm

He said when these events happen, they need to help promote them because it helps fill hotels, restaurants, gas stations, etc. Commissioner Holt said that was also something that could be promoted through Tourist Development Council.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 9:05 pm

Chairman Kimblin NeSmith, District 3

Chair NeSmith stated today was National Barbecue Day.

Commissioner Holt returned at 9:10 pm

Commissioner Hinson gave the “Greenlight Moment”.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
May 16, 2023 – Regular Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH DECLARED
THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:10 P.M.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT A WORKSHOP OF THE TOURIST
DEVELOPMENT HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FL ON MAY 22ND, 2023 AT 5:00 P.M.,
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

Present: Carolyn Ford, Chair-Person of Tourist Interest
Jeff Dubree, Tax Collector
Charles Williams
Ronte Harris
Brenda Holt, County Commissioner

Absent: Decorkus Allen, Havana Council Member
Linda Dixon, Tax Collector
Peter Patel, Tax Collector
Keith Dowdell, Quincy City Commissioner

Staff Present: Leslie Steele, TDC Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk

- 1. WELCOME** Tourist Development Council Chairman Carolyn Ford
Chair Ford started meeting at 5:08 pm.
- 2. INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ROLL CALL**
Chair Ford provided invocation and then led into the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.
Roll Call done by Deputy Clerk.
- 3. GENERAL BUSINESS**
 - a. **Introduction Overview**-- (Leslie D. Steele, Tourist Development Director)
 - b. **Branding Presentation**-- (Dante Fillyau and Michael Hall, MediumFour)
 - c. **Special Events 200 Year Anniversary, Crappie Tournament and Other Events**- -
(Leslie D. Steele, Tourist Development Director)

Ms. Steele stated they should be reaching out of Gadsden County. Their first step was getting their brand.

Dante Fillyau and Michael Hall started the Branding Presentation.

Commissioner Holt stepped in at 5:20 pm.

Commissioner Holt stated the logos that they used as an example seemed boring to her.
Mr. Fillyau stated it was very simple.

Ms. Steele asked if they could show a copy of logos.

Commissioner Holt stated she put down 4 elements. She had put down fishing, Cultural Arts, Blues.

Mr. Harris stated if it was possible what was the original thought pattern and maybe there was some ideas there.

Chair Ford stated for them to question what kept them there in Gadsden County. People want to come to FL to relax and people are not always in a rush. She stated there was hospitality here.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 5:44 pm.

Mr. Harris stated they were unique in the southern hospitality.

Mr. Dubree stated they were not artificial Florida. They were real.

Chair Ford stated Gadsden County has produced highly intelligent folks and they had a small-town flavor.

Ms. Steele stated their County is their logo. The thought process should be southern hospitality and relaxation.

Commissioner Holt stated she loved the small-town part.

Ms. Steele stated they needed to know what is needed from them to complete the logo.

Ms. Steele asked for them to provide recommendations to them. It needed a pre tag line and a post. She stated the visit needs to be in the "pre" line.

Ms. Steele stated the Administrator asked if they could consider a Gospel Fest or concert. It will be a TDC sponsored event. They have \$103,000 and can use those funds for marketing. Her idea was that they have a welcome center.

Ms. Steele stated they were known for pecans and tea. She wants them to be able to show their history in this celebration.

Commissioner Holt stated they need to look at what history really was and how they were going to lay it out.

Ms. Steele stated they will ask for the Summer Youth to help with the project like Commissioner Holt recommended.

Ms. Steele stated for them to start thinking about bands. She stated they have funding request from the Zeta's and the Juneteenth event. She stated she will ask for more in the budget.

Ms. Steel stated there is local marketing and global marketing. For events like the Zeta's, there is some regional marketing.

4. NEXT SCHEDULED MEETINGS

The next scheduled meeting will be at June 12th at 4:00 pm.

5. MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR FORD DECLARED THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED AT 7:02 P.M.

CAROLYN FORD, Chair
Tourist Development Council

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A FIRE SERVICES WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON MAY 25, 2023 AT 2:00
PM, THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

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

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair NeSmith called the workshop to Order at 2:05 PM, Commissioner Simpkins gave the Invocation and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD (3-Minute Limit)

The Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners welcomes and encourages public participation at all meetings of the Board. Citizens are free to speak for up to three (3) minutes on non-agenda items. Public comments and participation are also encouraged for items on the agenda. Additionally, if you are unable to attend a meeting in person, comments from the Public can also be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadscdencountyfl.gov until noon on the date of the meeting. Comments submitted after the deadline, but prior to the meeting, will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting. Citizens are further encouraged to participate via Zoom using the credentials on the County’s website. The Board’s meetings are also broadcast live on the Board’s Facebook page.

Mr. Dixon read aloud the above statement.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Fire services Workshop Presentation

Mr. Dixon stated **Kris Hood, Chief of Emergency Medical Services** would make a presentation.

Chief Hood appeared before the Board and listed the emergency response services that were provided by all of the fire departments. There are currently 11 total county departments; six volunteer fire departments in unincorporated areas of the county and five volunteer fire departments in local municipalities. Fire departments located in the unincorporated areas are Greenshade/Dogtown; Mt. Pleasant; Wetumpka; Robertsville; Concord and Sycamore. The fire departments that are in been Isabel of these are Chattahoochee; Greensboro; Gretna; Havana and Midway. There is current funding for each department. He said contracts expire on September 30, 2023 and the City of Quincy would expire on September 30, 2024.

A company called ISO (Insurance Services Office) creates ratings for Fire Departments and their surrounding communities. The ratings calculate how well-equipped Fire Departments are to put out fires in that community. He showed the current ISO score within the County.

Simpkins stepped out at 2:27 pm

Grading Structure

A department that has less than four certified firefighters showing up on an incident is automatically rated a 10. Any area that is greater than 5 miles from a fire station or greater than 1000 feet from a fire hydrant or viable water source is automatically rated a 10.

50 points comes from the quality of the local fire department including staffing levels, training and proximity of the firehouse.

40 points comes from availability of water supply, including the prevalence of fire hydrants and how much water is available for putting out fires.

10 points comes from the quality of the area's emergency Communications System (911).

An extra 5.5 points comes from community outreach, including fire prevention and safety courses.

Any area that is more than five driving miles from a nearest fire station is automatically rated a 10.

Current factors Effecting Fire Departments

- Money and Manpower
- Limited number of certified volunteers
- Training
- Water Sources
- 911 Dispatch
- Station conditions/locations
- Multiple departments potentially working against one another
- Lack of unified command system throughout
- No unity when it comes to equipment and not being interchangeable
- Multiple departments applying for the same grants.

Simpkins returned at 2:30 pm

Gadsden County Emergency Services

- Currently have 24 career Dual certified Fire/EMS full-time and 5 flex personnel (Fire II)
- 24/7 coverage for EMS/fire (depending on EMS calls)
- Provide a better response rate to protect life and structure
- Improve ISO ratings within County operated departments operating under County Fire number
- Expand coverage throughout the county with an increase of career staffing

- Provide an adequate number of certified fire personnel to departments operating under County Fire number.

Immediate Needs

- Add 3 quick response positions (one per shift)
- These positions will need to be filled with a dual certified fire fighter/paramedic

How Will This Help the County

- Experiencing paramedic shortages with three positions currently open and expect 2-3 to leave this summer
- These positions would need to be backfilled with EMT's in the event unable to obtain paramedics
- Staffing E EMT's on an EMS unit will not have the highest level of care possible. With a paramedic on a quick response vehicle this will assist the shift captain with being able to backup BLS units and provide ALS intervention.
- With this position, would be able to always keep someone in the county and be able to respond with fire are pending EMS calls.

Recommended Fire Coverage-Future Plan

- Per ISO standards, must ensure a minimum of four certified personnel respond to a fire call to achieve the best score
- It is recommended to add a total of 19 career staff to GCES to **START** with staffing fire needs
 - 6 EMT/FF
 - 6 PMD/FF
 - 1 Fire Training officer
 - 6 Medical dispatchers for fire and EMS calls
- This initial addition will allow GCES to dedicate four personnel per shift for fire coverage throughout the entire county
- With adding a training officer this will improve training throughout the county as well as add additional fire response during business hours when volunteer coverage might be limited
- This will allow the guaranteed response 24/7 in the event that volunteers are unavailable
- Recommended to do a yearly analysis to evaluate the need for growth within the department (adding personnel with growth)

Benefits for Adding Fire personnel

- Will provide a guaranteed timely response in the event of a fire related call
- Will provide an adequate amount of manpower per ISO standards to respond 24 hours a day seven days a week
- Will be a positive step towards growing a well-established career department
- Dedicated staff will be able to assist with medical calls in the event additional resources are needed

Benefits for Adding a Fire Training Officer

- Will ensure a unified training schedule that stays in compliance with ISO and NFPA standards
- Provide additional fire coverage/response within normal business hours when volunteer coverage might be limited
- Would have an active role with new hires and orientation process to make sure employees are adequately trained to be able to act on the front line
- The person obtaining this position would be the employees point of contact
- This position will need to be filled with a highly trained and state certified firefighter

Benefits for Adding Medical Dispatchers

- Ability to recognize the need for the proper resource response.
- Ability to provide prearrival medical instructions. Example: CPR, bleeding control
- Triage
- Dispatcher solely dedicated for EMS and fire

Cost to Add Paid County Staff for Fire Coverage

<u>Position</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>FICA</u>	<u>FRS</u>	<u>Health</u>	<u>Total</u>
EMT/FF	\$15.50	\$3,946.18	\$13,143.60	\$10,832.64	\$81,118.42
PMD/FF	\$17.25	\$4,391.71	\$14,627.56	\$12,056.68	\$90,276.59

Chief Hood stated they now need to integrate.

Recommendations for Improvement

- Put \$25,000 for a training budget for Fire 1 certification. (Would certify about 25 volunteers with Fire 1 certification). For all future budgets
- This current year provide up to \$10,000 for training.
- Provide call incentives for certified volunteers that respond under one County Fire number.
- Bring volunteers and fire departments wishing to join GCES under one County Fire number and County roster.
- Provide unified training for career staff and volunteer staff that operate under GCES.

Benefit for Department Integration with the County

- Increased personnel for one unified County response (one roster)
- Better response rate for volunteers/career staff.
- Improve ISO rating for integrated departments.
- Pay per call incentive volunteers (\$20 per call)
- Offer paid certification
- Unified training system
- Unified command system
- Unified equipment
- Increased grant success

How do We Start Now?

Step 1

- GCES moves dual certified EMS crew to the Robertsville station to potentially help with fire coverage (if not on EMS calls)
- Communicate with other volunteer departments/ community leaders to see who would like to integrate under one county fire number
- Departments that wish to integrate with GCES start training as one unified department
- After the need is recognized, we develop a plan to be able to provide dedicated staffing coverage for the partnering departments. (county staffed departments would need to come under one State Fire Number)
- Continue to grow and develop a unified department with a unified command system

Step 2

- Add additional staffing for a dedicated fire response within county operated departments
- Re-evaluate with all departments to recognize the need for integration including the City of Quincy
- Continue to offer unified training within the county operated department, including volunteers operating under county fire number

Step 3

- Each budget year continue with growth demand in order to establish adequate staffing and equipment to be able to keep ISO rating at the minimum and provide adequate staffing for fire response throughout the county
- Continue to grow and establish a well-respected volunteer/career department
- Identify a continuous funding source
- It is recommended to look into a MSBU to help offset the cost of a growing department

Additional Needs to make it happen

- With an increase in staffing additional sets of Bunker gear will need to be purchased
- New stations
- Renovate existing stations
- Purchase additional fire apparatuses
- Purchase additional fire equipment
- Quick response vehicles
- Provide access to all county buildings and equipment to career staff

How do they offset the cost?

- Potential to perform Fire Code Inspections
 - Members of staff are currently certified inspectors
- Allocate a portion of the gas tax to GCES
 - With guaranteed fire coverage with career staff, ISO ratings will improve thus reducing the cost of Home Insurance premiums for our citizens
 - Life and property will be protected with career/volunteer staff 24/7

How Do We Recruit Career Staff for Shortages?

Recruitment Plan:

- Develop a scholarship program with an application process through the school system that will allow a set number of students to be able to obtain a paid scholarship for EMT and Fire School
- Paid tuition for current employees
- Career Days
- Social media

Pros and Cons for Volunteer Fire Departments:

Pros:

- Good hearted personnel
- Cost effective

Cons:

- No guaranteed response
- A decrease in volunteers
- Increased ISO ratings
- Increased insurance premiums for homeowners
- Not meeting minimum training requirements
- Little to no incentive
- Lack of certified personnel
- Lengthy certification time
- Volunteers have other jobs they are obligated to
- No benefits other than pride
- Lack of funding
- Lack of unified command within county
- Territorial

Pros and Cons for Career Fire Departments:

Pros:

- Guarantee timely response
- 24/7 coverage
- State certified staffing
- Better structure protection
- Life safety
- Better public perception
- Decreased ISO ratings
- Decreased insurance premiums
- Increase for response for tragic events
- Dedicated training
- Rewarding career
- Benefit package
- Better recruitment and retention
- Room for growth

Cons:

- Costly

- Increased staffing requirements
- Increase in equipment requirements

Closing

- It is imperative that we continue to invest in public safety for the citizens and visitors of Gadsden County
- We must continue to replace the antiquated fleet and equipment and address the needs of the community
- Together, with the BOCC, we can achieve our goal of providing fiscally-sound, high quality, comprehensive fire rescue services

Commissioner Simpkins stepped out at 2:53 pm

Commissioner Simpkins returned at 2:54 pm

Commissioner Green suggested to go page by page with any questions there might be.

Ms. Daniels appeared before the board and explained the PIO was having some technical issues with her computer and asked if the board could take a recess. Chair NeSmith asked for a motion for a 5-minute recess.

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

Workshop resumed at 3:07 pm

Chair NeSmith had a question on Page 3. He asked if there was any collaboration with the different organizations applying for the grants.

Chief Hood stated they were independent and could apply for whatever their needs were.

Chair NeSmith asked how do they coordinate activities. Chief Walker appeared before the board and stated multiple departments could apply.

Commissioner Holt asked, if possible, to have a meeting with all them and have a list of the grants and applications and who was applying for what and what their needs were.

Chair NeSmith stated they need more collaboration and understanding.

Commissioner Simpkins stated as a County, they were responsible for the Fire Departments. It still falls under GCBOCC as their responsibility and asked if that was correct. Mr. Dixon stated it was the County's responsibility.

Mr. Dixon stated how they have achieved it over the years was quite different. Some has been by contracting with the City of Quincy and expanding their reach. Every fire department has a very different number.

Commissioner Holt stated they needed an inventory of each fire station; how many grants have been received, who has not received grants, etc.

Commissioner Simpkins asked how they could do it differently because the way it is right now is not working.

Commissioner Green asked if they could see what their budget is.

Chair NeSmith asked if they had an overall proposal as to the needs. Chief Walker stated they met with them to see what their needs were.

Chair NeSmith asked if they see every entity's annual budget? Chief Walker stated yes.

Chair NeSmith asked what was the next major factor that affects ISO rating.

Commissioner Green said that was in the presentation and asked what it took to get fire hydrants in the appropriate places. Chief stated some areas of the county did not have Talquin as their primary water source, and some areas if there were water lines they were only big enough to supply water to the hoses. He also said water lines had to be 6 inches or larger to put a hydrant on it.

Commissioner Green asked how they could change that? Mr. Dixon stated generally that would be a Talquin question. Talquin requires them to pay for the line.

Chair NeSmith asked about the five-mile radius circle and if the white areas were the only areas that were not within a fire department. Chief Walker stated yes. Chair NeSmith asked if all of the fire hydrants in the county were working and Chief Walker said that if one was found to not be working, he is contacted and he puts a black bag over the hydrant and contacts Talquin for it to be repaired.

Commissioner Green stated there could be some that did not work that the Chief was not aware of. He asked if anyone knew of hydrants that did not work, to please let the chief know so they could be identified.

Commissioner Holt stated they need to be able to have people to get into the stations the County owns and if there was a fire, they would be able to get equipment. They also needed to look at interchangeable equipment.

Commissioner Green stated he liked the possibility of the dual certification and asked if there was any funding available for hiring at any one of the entities as of right now and if they were advertising.

Mr. Dixon stated they now hire dual certified officers. Chief Hood stated they have 24 full-time staff and 5 flex personnel.

Commissioner Green asked if they had available funding now in the budget to advertise for more firefighters or more dual certified people. Mr. Dixon stated they have applied for the SAFER Grant.

Chief Hood stated they have 3 full-time open positions.

Commissioner Green stated they need to make sure they were building a great foundation. They need to keep in mind that EMS already has a challenging job.

Commissioner Holt asked what was the proximity to the gear they need because they may be housed in different locations. Chief Hood stated as far as gear, the 2 ambulances that were approved and purchased in October, they started the revamping of the model and how outlaid so any future ambulances will have the ability to carry bunker gear.

Chair NeSmith when stated they would pause and allow the speaker that requested to be heard come up to the Board.

Danny Hunter, City of Gretna Fire Chief and Nathaniel Yarusso, Midway Fire Chief, appeared before the Board and gave a presentation on Fire Service in Gadsden County.

He said they have focused on expanding the municipalities' ability to provide more enhanced fire services towards PT/FT staffing, with enhanced funding to independent Volunteer Fire Departments. He stated not all fire departments were 501C3, they were city organizations and not non-profits; while many of the independent stations in the county was. He said throughout the county there were six municipals and six independent departments that covered 520 square miles, serving 43,826 residents and 34 miles of Interstate 10. He stated in all of this discussion one thing that had not been touched on was hazmat. He said there was a lot of bad "juju" that rides up and down the interstate and we have been very fortunate so far that there has been no significant incident there but was just a matter of time.

He spoke on ways to expand the municipalities to provide more enhanced fire service throughout the unincorporated areas of the County.

Chief Yarusso said they were in their second year of becoming a combination department. Their Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays were 24 hours covered with paid, certified part-time firefighters. The goal next year is to have 24-hour coverage Monday – Friday with at least one part-time certified firefighter per shift. As the city grows, they plan to add as well and seems to be working. He said they needed to try to engage more young people. Chief Hunter said they have spoken with the School Superintendent about a dual enrollment program between the school district and TCC Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy. He also stated they had to be proactive with fire trucks because they were looking at one year out before receiving one.

Commissioner Green thanked him for a thorough presentation and asked if Mr. Hunter had had an opportunity to meet with Chief Walker.

Commissioner Holt said she was happy when he touched on grants and grant writers and stated cities could apply for funding for their fire stations because they do not need a 501c3. She also stated they'd needed to see that call and response log from the dispatchers and that would show who was called. She stated she liked the incentives idea and wrote down about dual enrollment at the schools. She asked Chief Hunter if the TCC/Pat Thomas Facility had hazmat training and Chief Hunter was unsure but knew they did the firefighter standards.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she was under the impression that since the ISO rating, it had been a hot topic and thought they were collaborating and was a “big piece” for her with the municipalities collaborating with the County. She said that was how they would progress even with individual municipalities. She asked if there had been meetings with the municipalities and the county. He said the municipalities meet quarterly and were very involved but as it related to the ISO, they were going to wait to get feedback to see how the board felt.

Commissioner Green asked if they were having any young people in the summer program work in EMS and Fire Services. Mr. Dixon stated where they could and they would work with CareerSource next year to put kids in some type of fire prep in the summer to help build interest.

Chief Hunter said that would be a great training opportunity and worth the investment.

Commissioner Hinson thought a friendly word they could use instead of assessment would be generated revenue. He also stated the Home Insurance when up and not necessarily because of the ISO rating.

Commissioner Simpkins stated the ISO ratings only played a small part in the increase of the insurance. However, it was still important because if there is a 10 when people were trying to renew their insurance, some insurance companies will not renew at a 10 rating.

Mr. Dixon said they needed to get a third-party consultant involved to see what models were available.

Commissioner Simpkins said she spoke with the state fire marshal herself and he was unable to be there today but was told they could sit with them and get them a model so they would be able to move in the right direction.

Commissioner Holt stated they were responsible for safety and needed to do what they have to do in order to make sure they have fire protection. She said they needed to have the County Administrator check with the Fire Marshall and with independents and look it both because the budget season was coming up.

Commissioner Green stepped out at 4:43 pm

Commissioner Green returned at 4:46 pm.

Commissioner Simpkins said they needed to contact the State Fire Marshall and see when they were available to come speak with them.

Commissioner Holt stated to get them both to come before the Board to discuss this.

Chair NeSmith asked the County Administrator in order for them to bring in an independent, would they have to check the budget? Mr. Dixon stated they could do an RFI

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
April 25, 2023 – Fire Services Workshop

MOTION TO ADJOURN

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH DECLARED
THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED AT 4:48 P.M.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FL ON MAY 31ST, 2023 AT
4:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS
HAD, VIZ:**

**Present: Kimblin NeSmith, Chair, District 3
Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2
Brenda Holt, District 4
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Adriana Quijada, Assistant Clerk
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk**

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair NeSmith started the meeting at 4:00 pm. They had a moment of silence then led into the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS (3-Minute Limit)

The Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners welcomes and encourages public participation at all meetings of the Board. Citizens are free to speak for up to three (3) minutes on non-agenda items. Public comments and participation are also encouraged for items on the agenda. Additionally, if you are unable to attend a meeting in person, comments from the Public can also be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until noon on the date of the meeting. Comments submitted after the deadline, but prior to the meeting, will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting. Citizens are further encouraged to participate via Zoom using the credentials on the County's website. The Board's meetings are also broadcast live on the Board's Facebook page.

Chair NeSmith read aloud the above statement.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Case No. 2022 CA 500
(Clayton F. Knowles, County Attorney)

Attorney Knowles stated he would like to request a SHADE meeting Friday at 2 pm.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS REQUEST.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
May 31st, 2023 - Special Meeting

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH
DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:03 P.M.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FL

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT AN ORGANIZATIONAL WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JUNE 5, 2023 AT 4:00
PM, THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

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

**** DUE TO TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES, THERE IS NO RECORDING FOR THIS WORKSHOP. PLEASE REFER TO THE GADSDEN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FACEBOOK PAGE FOR A RECORDING. ****

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair NeSmith started the workshop at 4 pm. Commissioner Green provided Invocation and Chair NeSmith led into the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Discussion of Gadsden County’s Organizational Chart

Mr. Dixon stated they have the Organizational Chart to present to them.

Chair NeSmith asked the County Administrator when the Administrator is not here, who runs the County? Mr. Dixon stated the Assistant County Administrator.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she wanted the actual job descriptions to see what that job entailed. Ms. Maas stated the job descriptions was emailed to them. Commissioner Green asked if it came from her office? Ms. Maas stated yes.

Commissioner Simpkins asked about timeframe to look at salaries. Ms. Maas stated it was being reviewed and it would be about 3 months. Mr. Dixon stated they were hoping to have more understanding on that data.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she noticed in some of the positions, with the same title, there was a different pay. She asked if the County has given any raises since 2019. Mr. Dixon stated no.

Commissioner Hinson stated there were raises given prior to raising the minimum to \$15. There were certain people given raises. Commissioner Green asked if there was any documentation as it relates to the previous raises. He also asked how did they go about the determination factor for the raise increases. Commissioner Hinson stated from what he could recall, it was not the BOCC, it was the previous Administrators. Commissioner Hinson stated they could call the Clerk to know about raises in the last 2 years.

Commissioner Green asked if there should have been some kind of documentation from the HR department showing who got the raises. He said they could maybe have that in the future.

Ms. Maas stated she was not familiar with employees receiving 3 or 4 pay increases within one year.

Mr. Dixon stated the reason they asked for the compensation study was because they have been unable to bring people in. What they were requesting was more money than what their people were making.

Commissioner Hinson stated if they really wanted to know the truth about who got raises in the last 2 years, the Clerk can let them know.

Commissioner Simpkins asked how did they handle individuals who are being promoted to a position and were promised an increase. What timeframes were they giving these individuals? She asked what are they having them to sign and what are they promising them. Ms. Maas stated employees do not have contracts. She stated the employees were not promised or guaranteed.

Commissioner Green stated he would like to assume when people get promotions, the whole purpose is a pay increase. He stated when someone does get a promotion, there is some type of information that states the job description and pay increase. He asked what was the timeframe if someone does get promoted to a position. Ms. Maas stated upon promotion. Mr. Dixon stated one of the things experienced was that employees did not have promotional opportunities.

Commissioner Simpkins stated if a position requires more work with no raise, then she would not take that position. She stated she wanted to make sure they were not taking advantage of those who do not understand. She stated people are under the impression that they have taken a new position, and there was an increase in this. They need to make sure they understand what they are signing. Ms. Maas stated during the interview process, that was all explained. She agreed, no one was looking to take advantage. Commissioner Simpkins stated she found it ironic multiple people saying the same thing. She hoped this really was the case and promises were kept.

Commissioner Holt stated they need to provide these questions early.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she wanted to make sure they were not paying out any money as it relates to a lawsuit.

Commissioner Hinson stated he could ask any employee anything, not going against his position as long as he does not tell them what to do.

Commissioner Green stated they all have concerns and care for their employees. If there are issues, they do want to hear them.

Chair NeSmith asked Ms. Maas how many employees do they have. Ms. Maas stated 185-200.

Ms. Daniels stated the Administrative Assistant was under procurement. Chair NeSmith asked if they were department heads. Ms. Daniels stated some are. Commissioner Hinson stated it was important to have a director.

Commissioner Simpkins returned at 5:11 pm

Commissioner Green asked how close knit does the Department work with the Attorney as it relates to Procurement? Ms. Daniels stated everything was reviewed by the Attorney before they move forward with it.

Attorney Knowles stated some of the contracts go to DEO and DEP. Some RFP have specific requirements. He was not really involved in small procurement things.

Commissioner Green asked if all the vacant positions have already been budgeted for and are being advertised? Mr. Dixon stated yes.

Commissioner Hinson asked how long has the position for Building Inspector been vacant? Mr. Dixon stated just a little while. Ms. Maas stated around 3 or 4 weeks.

Chair NeSmith asked under the EMS Chart, if Chief Hood was the Department head and there are 2 divisions under him? Mr. Dixon stated correct.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if they were current vacancies under EMS? Mr. Dixon stated yes.

Mr. Dixon clarified with Chief Hood if those vacant positions were recent. Chief Hood stated one of them was vacant for 2 months and the others 6 months.

Chair NeSmith asked if salaries were competitive in their region. Mr. Dixon stated they were competitive.

Chair NeSmith asked what does Shift A mean? Chief Hood stated there was a total of 3 shifts, each 24 hours.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if the Facilities Manager has to be approved by the Board. Commissioner Holt stated the Manager did come before them.

Chair NeSmith asked if the Senior Housing Specialist vacant position was currently being advertised. Mr. Dixon stated yes.

Commissioner Holt stated vacant positions are important; there were 38 vacant positions.

Commissioner Green asked what tactics were they using to get the word out on the vacant positions and also asked about job fairs. Mr. Dixon stated they needed to know what they needed to pay people and they needed to get numbers and job descriptions straight.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if the positions being advertised have updated job descriptions? Ms. Maas stated most of them. She asked if the County Administrator receives input from other departments knowing what was needed from that position. She asked if departments were able to take a look at all applications. Ms. Maas stated they either work with the Department to develop an advertisement for a position or they develop that for them. It includes minimal qualifications based on job descriptions that establishes pre-screening criteria, which is the baseline. If candidates do not meet that baseline, they do not move forward.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if a person meets minimum qualifications, then it would make it to the Department head? Ms. Maas stated yes, unless additional pre-screening criteria has been put in place with that hiring supervisor.

Commissioner Hinson stated if they could get all the resumes and applications together to send to the Commissioners. Also wanted to see the person who denied the job.

Ms. Maas stated to be clear, that position was not offered and declined. The second interview was offered and that was declined. The first interview was with her.

Commissioner Holt stated she has not talked to anyone that has said they wanted a position and then went through the process and asked to meet with them. She stated to include the job descriptions of the aides as well.

Commissioner Green stepped out at 5:59 pm.

Commissioner Green returned at 6:02 pm.

Mr. Dixon stated Fleet services and Administration answer directly to Mr. Young under the Public Works Department. Parks & Recreation answers to Mr. Braswell.

Commissioner Green asked if the Recreation Specialist position is the person that comes up with programs like health or activities? He asked how had the application process has been going.

Mr. Dixon stated they had asked them to stop because if they were going to re-profile the section, they need to re-profile the position as well.

Commissioner Green asked about Operations Manager and if they had more power than the Administration that was at the top. Mr. Dixon stated they were in discussions now about how to re-arrange the section. It does not compete with Administration for any positions.

Commissioner Green asked if it was in the same pay bracket as the Administration? Mr. Dixon stated no. Ms. Maas stated it was slightly higher.

Commissioner Holt stated they need someone that could go after grants for parks.

Commissioner Hinson asked if could have job description for those new positions so they could see it.

Chair NeSmith asked the County Administrator regarding under Parks & Recreation, if there was a coordinator position? Mr. Dixon stated that was the only one that was there.

Chair NeSmith asked if they currently do not have someone under Parks & Rec that could focus on going after grants? Mr. Dixon stated right, they designed it as just maintenance.

Chair NeSmith stated they would like that position for Recreation Specialist to have the opportunity to go after dollars. So, whatever that job description was, they need that person to go after money.

Commissioner Simpkins stated they need to keep the Specialist because the Director would need assistance. She wanted to make sure that person has experience with Recreation and programming within the County.

Commissioner Hinson mentioned having sports in the Youth Program.

Motion to Adjourn

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH DECLARED THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED AT 6:23 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**KIMBLIN NESMITH, 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 6, 2023 AT 6:00 P.M., THE
FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

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

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair NeSmith called the meeting to Order at 6:00pm. Commissioner Green provided invocation. Chair NeSmith led into the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Daniels stated they did not have any amendments to the agenda.

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

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, AND APPEARANCES

1. Recognition of Bostick Temple Christian Center, Inc.

Ms. Daniels presented the above item.

Commissioner Green stated there was no one there yet, so they will move it along.

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.

2. Ratification Memo

3. BOCC Meeting/ Workshop Minutes:

- a. May 2, 2023 @ 4:30pm Regular Workshop/Meeting
- b. May 10, 2023 @ 4:30pm Special Meeting
- c. May 16, 2023 @ 6:00pm Regular Meeting
- d. April 12, 2023 @ 5:00PM Bicentennial Workshop

4. **Approval of the Revised Judicial Inquiry System (JIS) Inter-Agency Agreement provided through the Office of the State Courts**
5. **Approval of the Security Force Southeast, LLC Agreement**
6. **Medical Director Services Agreement**
7. **Public Official Bond Review**
8. **Approval of the Elderly Affairs Department to purchase the MySeniorCenter software, accept Xavus Solutions, LLC Purchase and License Terms agreement the annual maintenance and support fee**
9. **Approval to transfer Vendor Agreements from Gadsden Senior Services to Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners**

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS (3-MINUTE LIMIT)

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Chair NeSmith read aloud the above statement.

Mike Watson, 2793 Sycamore Rd

Mike Watson appeared before the Board to discuss Sycamore Rd and how bad it needs paving.

Michael Brown, 588 Charles Brown Lane

Michael Brown appeared before the Board to discuss about the improvements needed at Parks in Friendship area. He wanted attention brought to them.

Commissioner Holt stated that was in her district and she has spoken with Mr. Brown about this. She stated she informed the County Administrator to evaluate all parks. They were looking at hiring someone for Parks right now.

Commissioner Hinson appeared at 6:14 pm.

Commissioner Green stated Parks and Recreation was one of the things they were already working on.

Commissioner Hinson stated they needed to have a meeting on Parks and Recreation. He stated they could maybe use COVID money on this.

Kacy Dennis, CEO Boys and Girls Club

Mr. Dennis appeared before the Board on behalf of the Boys and Girls Club and thanked the BOCC for the funding. He stated they were there to ask for an increase to \$1.25 Million to purchase a facility.

Shawona Moore, Boys and Girls Club

Ms. Moore appeared before the Board to discuss more in detail about the facility.

Ms. Becca Pustejovsky, Boys and Girls Club

Ms. Pustejovsky appeared before the Board to discuss the Club. She stated she created a committee of concerned citizens.

Emily Lee, 1251 Woodward Rd. Quincy, FL

Ms. Lee appeared before the Board. She stated she joined the committee to help the community.

Danielle Upton, 212 N Madison St, Quincy

Ms. Upton appeared before the Board to discuss about the Boys and Girls Club being a foundation for children.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she was a big advocate for their youth. She would like to have a conversation with Mr. Dennis one on one.

Commissioner Green stated he has met with Mr. Dennis before. He wanted to thank them for coming. He stated there will be a variety of questions now that they were asking for an increase.

Commissioner Hinson stated he proposed that they have a Community Center on the west end of Gadsden County as well as the east. He asked if they were planning on purchasing the facility and allowing people to lease.

Chair NeSmith stated he was not aware of the increase in the asking from the Boys and Girls Club. He stated they would probably have to workshop this.

Commissioner Hinson asked if they had a location already. Mr. Dennis stated yes, it was in the packet.

Commissioner Holt stated Mr. Dennis should contact each Commissioner. She stated they need to look at scheduling who else was going to request funding.

Commissioner Hinson stated he supported them but wanted to make sure resources go back to Gadsden County. Mr. Dennis stated all funds stay in Gadsden County.

Commissioner Green stated the recognition of Bostick Temple Christian Center will have to happen another day due to them not being able to make it.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

10. Approval of Resolution 2023-015 – Budget Amendments for FY 2021-2022

Ms. Daniels presented the above item. She stated this item seeks Board approval of Resolution 2023-015 and 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.

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

GENERAL BUSINESS

11. Voting Credentials – 2023 National Association of Counties (NACO) Annual Conference

Ms. Daniels presented the above item. This item was presented to designate a County Delegate and County Alternate to participate in the NACO annual election of officers and policy adoptions at the NACO Annual Conference.

Chair NeSmith asked Commissioner Hinson if he was planning to attend this. Commissioner Hinson stated yes.

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

12. Approval of Area of Operation Resolution 2023-016 Concerning Financing of an Affordable Multifamily Residential Rental

Ms. Daniels presented the above item. This item was presented to the Board for approval of Resolution 2023-016, granting area of operation authority to the Escambia County Housing Finance Authority to issue Multifamily Housing Revenue Bonds to finance an affordable residential rental apartment project located in Gadsden County, Florida.

Commissioner Hinson requested a brief synopsis so the community knows what's going on. Ms. Daniels read the background of this item.

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

13. Approval of Resolution 2023-017 – Budget Amendment for FY 2022-2023

Ms. Daniels presented the above item. She stated this item allocates the funding for items that have already been approved by the Board. The funding is coming from the General Fund Reserve for Contingency and any movement of funds from the Reserve for Contingency must be approved by the Board. She stated there was five items listed and item number 3 was an error and it should not be included so there are only four items. She stated the amount of this budget amendment does not include the \$300,000 for the Emergency Housing Repair Program; it would be coming to them separately from another pot of money.

Chair NeSmith verified that if they vote for that motion, that would automatically be excluded? Ms. Daniels stated yes.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH THE CHANGE OF THE \$300,000 AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE MOTION.

Commissioner Green stated he had a family emergency and will reach out to the County Administrator for the comments that he had.

Commissioner Green stepped out at 6:48 pm.

CLERK OF COURT

14. Updates

No updates.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

15. Updates

No updates.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

16. Updates

No updates.

17. DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2

Commissioner Simpkins stated there was a second Town Hall meeting on June 8th. She also wanted to send condolences to the Figgers family due to the mother passing away.

Commissioner Hinson stated they gave Ms. Figgers a proclamation. He stated she was one of the sweetest ladies he has met and she will be missed in the community.

Ms. Daniels elaborated on the Housing event this weekend. She stated it was for celebrating Housing month. There is an event scheduled for this Saturday at 10:00 am. She stated there will be vendors and tiny house display.

Commissioner Simpkins wanted to thank the Zeta's for their recognition on Sunday for Women on The Move.

Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt stated for them to see what the community wants on parks. She stated they need to do something about the large items by the road. She stated there were a lot of people that did not want to see items by the road as it makes the whole neighborhood look bad.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she had a problem with individuals that are going into other communities to dump their stuff. She stated they need to make sure they are visual and love where

they live. She stated the County picks up only twice a year. They need cameras to catch who is doing the dumping.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5

Commissioner Green left early.

Commissioner Eric F. Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson mentioned people who have passed away. He stated they need to focus on lighting in the community; mentioned solar lighting.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she spoke with the County Administrator about the lighting. She stated she planned to ride her district to see where they need lighting.

Commissioner Hinson stated they also need to improve striping due to it starting to disappear in some areas. He also wanted to congratulate all the graduates.

Commissioner Hinson mentioned the Summer Youth Program. He asked if it was new that teachers have to sign. He stated there are kids with 3.9 or 4.0 GPA's and their grandparents call them asking why their child does not have a job. He stated now they need a notary to get a job. He stated there were too many restrictions on these kids.

Commissioner Simpkins stated report cards did not go out until after the 12th so they would not know if the student had a 2.0 GPA.

Commissioner Holt stated they do need to have some stipulations on an application otherwise it was not an application. She asked if they let the County Administrator know about the GPA problem. She stated they should have asked what the application looks like. Commissioner Holt asked if there was a notary in the building. Ms. Daniels stated yes, there is a notary in the building.

Chair NeSmith stated there was evidence on how he feels when it comes to the youth. He stated there are a lot of moving parts with the Youth program.

Commissioner Hinson mentioned back to school supplies. He stated One Gadsden Foundation will host a back-to-school supply drive on August 6th at the old Havana Northside High School.

Commissioner Hinson also mentioned ceilings. He stated in Hampton Heights there was a house that was refurbished by the County and less than 2 years later, the roof was leaking. They need to do what they can do as a Board to help them out.

Commissioner Hinson wanted to get the Board to approve an Alpha Kappa Alpha event he is hosting on June 17th at 10am to 2pm at the courthouse.

Commissioner Holt asked if there was anyone using the Courthouse that day. Commissioner Hinson said no.

Allan Meeks appeared before the Board. He stated if they have an event at the Courthouse, they have to have a million-dollar liability insurance. If it was a county event then it would be under the County policy.

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Holt stated she had just received a text stating they were still accepting documents for the Summer Youth program.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 7:49 pm.

Chairman Kimblin E. NeSmith, District 3

Ms. Daniels mentioned the Summer Youth Program still accepting documents. She stated the Senior Benevolence will be on June 7th at DOEA and the Employer Meeting for Summer Youth Program will also be on June 7th. She also mentioned that the County offices will be closed on June 19th.

Commissioner Holt returned at 7:54 pm.

Chair NeSmith mentioned the State of the County Address that will take place on Monday at 7pm. He also mentioned an email from Chief Hood about a Grant. He wanted to thank Chief Hood for going after funding for EMS.

Chair NeSmith stated they need to reschedule the workshop for Hospital/ Indigent Care.

Commissioner Hinson closed out the meeting by saying "Jesus is love."

MOTION TO ADJOURN

WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 8:02 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A PRE-MEETING WORKSHOP OF THE GADSDEN
COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD
IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JUNE 6,
2023, THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: **Kimblin NeSmith, Chair, District 3**
 Eric Hinson, Vice-Chair, District 1
 Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2
 Brenda Holt, District 4
 Ronterious “Ron” Green, District 5
 Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
 Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
 Adriana Quijada, Secretary to the Boards

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE


Chair NeSmith called the workshop to order, Commissioner Green gave the Invocation and the Chair led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag. And

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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Chair NeSmith read the above statement aloud.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- 1.**  Ms. Daniels went through the Awards, Presentations and Appearances portion of the agenda. Concerning the Consent Agenda, Commissioner Green asked during the meeting, to explain that item a little bit. Chair NeSmith asked if there was any fiscal impact on any of the items on the Consent Agenda and Ms. Daniels explained they were already covered in the budget.

10. Public Hearing-Approval of Resolution 2023-015-Budget Amendments for FY 2021-2022

Ms. Daniels explained this was a public hearing regarding budget amendments for fiscal year that ended September 30, 2022. They were transfers to the Property Appraiser and Supervisor of Elections and the total was approximately \$37,000. She said there was a transfer scheduled to the Building Inspection fund but those fees were coming in better than expected and instead of doing that transfer, they reduced the transfer from them to go to the Property Appraiser and Supervisor of Election and there was no impact to the General Fund.

 Commissioner Simpkins appeared at 4:11 pm.

General Business

11. Voting Credentials-2023 National Association of Counties (NACO) Annual Conference

Ms. Daniels explained this was to designate the County delegate and alternate for the voting credentials at the 2023 NACo conference.

12. Approval of Area of Operation Resolution 2023-016 Concerning Financing of an Affordable Multifamily Residential Rental Apartment by the Escambia County Housing Finance Authority

Commissioner Green asked if they would be presenting something.

Justin Stiell appeared before the Board and said there would be two people present.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if they would just be approving the bond portion and Mr. Stiell said yes.

13. Approval of Resolution 2023-017-Budget Amendment for FY 2022-2023

Ms. Daniels said this was for approval of budget amendments and several have already been approved by the Board but were just coming forward. There is one scrivener's error for item 3, it was not included in the budget amendment and will be presented as a separate item. It was for the Emergency Housing Program and coming from ARPA fund and not reserve. She said items 1 and 2 will have the public preference ordinance attached.

Commissioner Green said once they move money, they should not have any problem solidifying the bands for the concerts scheduled.

Commissioner Green said they spent 30 minutes going through the agenda for tonight, it was a very simple agenda and he did not want to entertain any unnecessary discussion.

Commissioner Simpkins asked funding for Item 8 would come from where and Ms. Daniels said that had already been set aside for that department.

Latoya Fryson appeared to explain the amount of \$5500.00 included an annual maintenance long as they pay the \$1900, they will continue to maintain.

Chair NeSmith asked that Commissioner comments be added to the Agenda at end of workshop.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
June 6, 2023-Pre-Meeting Workshop

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:30 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A WORKSHOP OF THE TOURIST DEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY,
FL ON JUNE 12TH, 2023 AT 4:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING
PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Carolyn Ford, Chair-Person of Tourist Interest
Jeff Dubree, Tax Collector
Charles Williams, City Councilman
Brenda Holt, County Commissioner

Absent: Linda Dixon, Tax Collector
Peter Patel, Tax Collector
Ronte Harris, Commissioner

Staff Present: Leslie Steele, TDC Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

1. WELCOME

Chair Ford called the meeting to order at 4:18 pm.

2. INVOCATION/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Ford led into the pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

3. WORKSHOP

a. Introduction Overview

b. Branding Presentation (Dante Fillyau and Michael Hall, Medium Four)

c. Special Events 200 Year Anniversary, Crappie Tournament and Other Event

Ms. Steele stated they would not have a regular meeting due to the two new members not being confirmed yet. She stated they will go through the second part of the Branding presentation and also discussing special events.

Mr. Fillyau and Mr. Hall started the Branding Presentation. They presented logos that they came up with for the Gadsden County sign. Mr. Fillyau stated the primary objectives they had for this was to reflect cultural arts, highlight outdoors, and embracement for Blues music.

Mr. Hall asked if they would like to go through all of them first and then go back and review and discuss or would they like to discuss each one as they go through them. Chair Ford stated to go through all of them first then discuss. Mr. Hall and Mr. Fillyau showed them logos that they came up with.

Chair Ford asked if there was some kind of rule where they could not put the heart in red. Mr. Fillyau stated no, it was just the color they chose to stick with the brand guidelines.

Mr. Dubree asked Medium Four if they had favorites. Mr. Hall stated number two would be his favorite because it could get into the elements of the G Clef.

Mr. Dubree stated he personally liked the G Clef because it touches on a lot more things. He liked the modern font and the diversity on it.

Commissioner Holt stated she liked the fact that the G Clef was not straight. The red would be perfect for the heart. She stated the last two were boring to her.

Chair Ford stated it did not represent Gadsden County to her. She needed a farm or something. She stated they have nice farmers and cotton fields. She stated she did like the trees and the water on the logo.

Commissioner Holt stated if she had to read that logo in the sun, she would not be able to see the gold. She stated they need to highlight small county, big heart. Mr. Hall stated the yellow would not get lost in the logo. There were no other colors that could represent the things they want.

Commissioner Holt stated with a heart, she first thinks of the color red. Mr. Hall stated they could change the heart to red and the words that say big heart to red as well. Commissioner Holt asked if they could send them one with the colors changed.

Mr. Dubree asked what would red do to the logo. Mr. Hall stated nothing, it would not really hurt it.

Ms. Steele asked what kind of green were they going to change it to. She stated the trees were hard to see with the dark green. Mr. Hall stated they were still in phase one and could still change it to light green and have a dark green accent.

Ms. Steele asked what other changes do they want to do besides making the heart red. Chair Ford wanted to go back to number one. Ms. Steele stated logos three and four were her favorite.

Ms. Steele asked if they could change the heart to red and they were almost there with choosing the final logo. Mr. Hall stated they will change the colors now and show them.

Ms. Steele stated changing the heart to red made a big difference. Chair Ford stated she wanted the words Big Heart in red.

Ms. Steele stated they would get in contact with them for the final two logos. She stated they will vote on this once they get two of their members sworn in on Tuesday. She thanked them for coming and stated they will start the beginning phase.

Ms. Steele stated there were some requests for funding of reunions. She stated they have to use marketing dollars. Ms. Steele stated she wanted to bring up Crappie tournament first because Matt Perez from the 200-year anniversary crew was present.

Matt Perez appeared and stated he has secured a Band. He stated it was normally \$400 to perform. He had not talked to anyone about the location.

Ms. Steele asked if they could identify the location for the Band.

Ms. Holt asked if it was a County sponsored event. Ms. Steele stated yes, it is a TDC sponsored event.

Ms. Steele stated \$103,00 is not enough for marketing. Commissioner Holt asked if they could get an adjusted budget? Ms. Steele stated yes.

Matt Perez asked what date would they like the Band to play. Commissioner Holt stated maybe on that Friday.

Commissioner Holt stated if they wanted to encourage local people, most of them would be working. The children's activities could be any day.

Ms. Steele stated there were some requests in their packets. She stated there was one for \$413 from the Hall of Fame committee.

Commissioner Holt asked why were they doing a souvenir book? She asked about marketing out to get them to come in. She stated she thought they were marketing outside of the County to get people to come in and spend their money.

Ms. Steele stated if that was the discretion of the Board, she would do whatever they need to do. She stated in terms of the souvenir booklet, the requested amount was \$3,174 but they were not able to vote on that tonight. She stated the next application was the Budget overview for Hall of Fame in the amount of \$7,000. She stated she received an email which was included in the packet that stated they spent \$433 on marketing. That was going to be submitted to them for consideration.

Commissioner Holt asked if they did not do the radio ads. Ms. Steele stated yes, they did. Commissioner Holt asked how did they do it for the radio ads. Ms. Steele stated the person was going to send all that stuff over.

Ms. Steele stated they were aware that Black History generated a tremendous amount of dollars for their budget. That month saw a drastic increase in their marketing.

Mr. Knowles verified that the question was if they could use that for those reunions. Ms. Steele stated yes.

Mr. Knowles stated he believed they could under Sub section 3.

Commissioner Holt stated that when they advertise, they need to make sure they know to put TDC on their logo. They need to get with venues that are providing the beds that they have not issued a card for them to report it to them.

Mr. Dubree stated not many people book at hotels, more on travel sites.

Ms. Steele stated typically for family reunions, you book a slot of rooms under that reunion's name. Commissioner Holt stated they needed to make more effort to improve their verification. Mr. Dubree stated it may help if they were stricter and let everybody know exactly what they will pay for.

4. NEXT SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Ms. Steele asked when do they want to meet again. She stated the Commissioners are out all July. She stated maybe that first week of July.

Commissioner Holt stated the last Monday of the month. Ms. Steele stated that was fine.

5. ADJOURNMENT

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR FORD DECLARED THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED AT 5:55 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

CAROLYN FORD, Chair
Tourist Development Council

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A BUDGET WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JUNE 13, 2023 AT 4:00 P.M.,
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

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

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair NeSmith called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m., asked for a moment of silence and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD (3-Minute Limit)

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GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Introduction/Summary Highlights

Mr. Dixon appeared before the Board and gave an introduction and some summary highlights of the 2024 budget for the County

He said there were issues with EMS, fire departments, parks, Elder Affairs and Summer Youth. They were seeing an increase in the Building funds. He said some of the funds going to budget for: opioids and tribal funds. He said they have not done much multi-year planning but they need to. He said valuations were coming up.

Commissioner Holt arrived at 4:13 p.m.

Ms. Daniels appeared before the Board and said Mr. Dixon had given a great synopsis of the coming year.

Commissioner Hinson arrived at 4:15 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson stepped out at 4:15 p.m.

She said they had received preliminary fund balance information from the auditors and how they were doing with major revenue sources in this current fiscal year. They have received budgets from the Constitutional Officers and from some of the departments. The overall ending balance for the General Fund is \$6.293 Million; Transportation fund is \$3,212,519.00; the Building Inspection fund is \$457,561.00; and EMS Fund is \$768,860.00 as of September 30, 2022. She said as the Commission was aware, they transfer funds from the general fund to the EMS fund because what they collect in comparison to the decreases, they have to make adjustments.

Commissioner Hinson returned at 4:18 p.m.

She said as Mr. Dixon indicated, Building Inspection services were doing a lot better. She said in the past, they had to transfer money to them and now since they were doing better, they could utilize that money and budget to use their fund balance as revenue.

Commissioner Hinson stepped out at 4:21.

Chair NeSmith asked about the total fund balance and Ms. Daniels said they could not add all of the balances together for one balance as some fund balances were restricted.

Commissioner Holt asked about using the funds for Building Inspection to improve that department instead of moving it back to general funds. Ms. Daniels explained that those funds would be paying back for previous “loans”.

Commissioner Hinson returned at 4:24 pm.

Commissioner Holt said they were looking at putting up buildings on Joe Adams Road and look at upgrading that department and could the money be used for that instead of paying that money back to the general fund.

Commissioner Green asked if they were able to utilize some of the funds for a lead construction person? Ms. Daniels said they would have to search the statute to see what it states.

Commissioner Holt said at one time they had a Board of Contractors that used to meet on several issues. Ms. Daniels said she would ask Mr. Morris to look into that.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 4:38 pm.

Commissioner Holt returned at 4:35 pm.

Commissioner Hinson asked if they could schedule a workshop with the engineers to see what they are doing.

Mr. Dixon re-appeared. Chair NeSmith asked if they had met with engineers and Mr. Dixon said they had met them but not met with them.

Commissioner Holt said they did not need another workshop, they been workshopped to death and had not accomplished anything. They needed finalization to some of the workshops they have had. Chair NeSmith asked why he wanted to meet with engineers. Commissioner Hinson said they have two new firms and wanted to make sure they were headed in the right direction. Commissioner Holt said they could have them come in for a pre-meeting before one of the regular meetings.

Commissioner Hinson said they have yet to meet with the engineering firm and they bring in more money than any other organization they were working with. The engineering firms were very serious because they were the driving force of Gadsden County.

Summary of Effect

Chair NeSmith asked if they had a chance to go through and tighten up the budget? Mr. Dixon said they were constantly reviewing, but it was lean in the beginning.

Commissioner Holt said they need to look at the job market and look at the index in the county. They need to look at EMS costs in the surrounding counties for costs that have a hospital.

Mr. Dixon said EMS roughly collects 50% and the number continues to increase.

- Funds Balance Summary
- Ad Valorem Tax Revenue Summary

Ms. Daniels wanted to give an idea of where the County was at. She said they had budgeted for the CRA's. She asked them to remember when they budget, the budget is 95% of what they anticipate to collect.

- Constitutional Officers FY23/24 Budget Requests

She said the Clerk had an increase of 6%, Chair NeSmith asked if it was new hires or raises. Ms. Daniels said she would find out.

She said the Property Appraiser had vehicles coming off lease last year and they had to purchase the vehicles. Now they have to purchase one more vehicle and some software and their net effect for this year is around \$11,000.

They received the Sheriff's request and the total increase is 16% or approximately \$1.3 Million. If the millage rate stays where it is, they were anticipating only receiving \$1.8 million from ad valorem tax revenue. There is a \$400,000 increase in the budget next year for the FRS rate that went into effect and that will come off the top.

Commissioner Holt asked if the Sheriff's Office was willing to come back into CHP with the County. Ms. Daniels said that would be discussed in the upcoming meeting along with purchasing fuel from the County.

Commissioner Green asked about the jail. Mr. Dixon said they would not be able to bring it up to code. Commissioner Green said it belonged to the County and was in bad condition.

Chair NeSmith asked if all Constitutionals were seeking grant dollars for their own departments? Mr. Dixon said the Constitutionals were encouraged by the Commissioners.

Commissioner Holt said a few years ago they had put in a request for a new jail and courtroom and they need to look at that as a total entity.

Commissioner Hinson thought the BOCC refurbished the jail 6 or 7 years ago. He asked for documentation on what was done. He said they also need to put the jail in a remote area, maybe towards Liberty County. That might make the Quincy (I-10) exit a little more attractive with the jail not being there. He added they needed to identify land now for a future facility.

Commissioner Green said while they were talking about it, maybe they could schedule a field trip as a board to the facility and have a grading scale when they go.

Chair NeSmith asked if they had information on all county-owned buildings and Mr. Dixon said yes.

Supervisor of Elections

Ms. Daniels said there were two elections she has to prepare for before next year.

- Department Preliminary Recommended Budget FY23-24 vs. FY22-23

Commissioner Green stepped out at 5:23 p.m.

Ms. Daniels said there has been an increase of costs of supplies, etc. have gone up and that has been included in the budget.

Commissioner Green returned at 5:26 p.m.

Chair NeSmith said they have done a great job partnering with the municipalities and need to look at how to empower them to go after their own dollars. He said money and resources were out there.

Commissioner Holt wanted to check with the insurance carrier on the savings if the Sheriff's Department came back in. She said partnerships could also include grant for grant, etc.

2. Board of County Commissioners Priorities and Direction

Commissioner Green said he thought in the introduction, the Administrator already alluded to some of programs that were not completed, i.e., Senior services, etc.

Ms. Daniels said they want to start scheduling individual meetings with the commissioners to go over questions to get their wishes and priorities asap.

Ms. Daniels introduced a new staff person, Ms. Jenifer Carrier, as the new budget manager. She was a former auditor with the State and was a CPA.

Commissioner Green said he was very excited about the position being filled and welcomed her.

Ms. Daniels said the next budget workshop would not be until August 1st, and they will have to adopt the millage rate before then.

Ms. Daniels also recognized Sylvia Newman and her hard work.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH DECLARED THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED AT 5:41 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

KIMBLIN NESMITH, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A WORKSHOP/ REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FL ON JUNE 20, 2023 AT 4:00 P.M.,
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

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

WORKSHOP (4:00PM)

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair NeSmith started the workshop and Invocation was done. Chair NeSmith led into the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair NeSmith asked the County Administrator if there were any amendments to the agenda.

The County Administrator stated they had a request for Proclamation regarding Bicentennial to be added as Item 15A.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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Chair NeSmith read aloud the above statement.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Review and Discuss the June 20, 2023 Regular BOCC Meeting Agenda

Mr. Dixon stated Item 8 was the approval of Lease-Purchase of two Frazer Chevy 3500 Type I Ambulances. He stated they needed to finance two new ambulance boxes to go on their chassis.

Chair NeSmith stated they had a fiscal impact of \$424,368.57.

Mr. Dixon stated one loan was coming to an end that they have out there right now. They were

looking to continue that loan at those dollars. He stated the loan was for previous ambulances.

Chair NeSmith verified with Mr. Dixon that they talked about ordering the ambulances on a certain date but they would not have to make the first payment until next year. Mr. Dixon stated 2025.

Mr. Knowles stated they could refer to page 17 of 19. There are 3 options. The longer they advertise it, the lower the interest rate.

Chief Hood stated the current lease will expire in April 2024 and the current lease amount is \$124,000.

Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Dixon for his recommendation. Mr. Dixon stated he recommended to finance it for 3 years. Commissioner Holt asked was that because they already have ARPA money? Mr. Dixon stated it was because it was already there and also it was a cash flow thing. He stated they could buy them, but it would reduce everyday cash flow. Commissioner Holt stated if they do it for five years, and did extra payment on the principle, they could run the interest down.

Commissioner Simpkins stated they wanted to make sure it was not one of those deals where they had already included the interest payment. It did not matter if you pay it off sooner, they were still going to receive that set interest amount.

Ms. Daniels stated this was not ARPA money. This was money being budgeted from the EMS fund. She stated they have to be mindful that they need to have a balanced budget. She stated in order to spend, they need to have it budgeted.

Mr. Dixon stated Item 9 seeks re-appointment to the Quincy-Gadsden Airport Authority. Mr. Ralph Higdon will serve a three-year term if he were to be reappointed. Commissioner Green asked if Mr. Higdon had been notified or was he still interested in serving in that capacity. Mr. Dixon stated he may have spoken with Mrs. Bradley.

Mr. Dixon went on to Item 10. He stated they had a decrease in the amount of \$5,230.00 for the Change Order #1 for Havana Middle School Sidewalk. He stated the same was for Item 11 except it was a decrease in the amount of \$300.00. Commissioner Green asked regarding the money that was decreased, where did it go? Mr. Dixon stated it would go back to the funder.

Mr. Dixon stated Item 12 was requested by Commissioner Simpkins. This item seeks approval of purchasing playground equipment for East Gadsden Recreation Park and Multipurpose Complex. Commissioner Green asked if they had done the cost analysis across the County? He asked how were they dividing the needs across the Board. Mr. Dixon stated they were going to bring in categories of what they could have done this summer along with the Budget that would be required. He stated they were going to bring 3 or 4 parks that they hope would get their approval to be upgraded. Commissioner Green asked if they had an idea of what the other parks are. Mr. Dixon stated St. Johns, Friendship, and Sawdust Park.

Commissioner Simpkins stated this was something she has been requesting since November. She stated there was not a park in that community. They have ARPA funds and should be able to show citizens where they have something substantial that they can show after 2025. She stated the

community deserves equipment. They need to use the ARPA funds. She stated they do need to address all communities but especially this one. Chair NeSmith asked how many county parks do they have. Curtis Young stated 12.

Commissioner Holt stated she cannot vote for parks until they could see about getting the one that she had been asking for 4 years to be looked at, which was St. Johns Park. She stated the bathroom was torn out. She said she also asked about Friendship Park. Commissioner Holt asked Commissioner Simpkins if there was a restroom there. Commissioner Simpkins stated there is a restroom but no park out there. She was not sure if there is even water running. Commissioner Holt stated for them to do an inventory to see what they need to do. She stated she cannot support anything until they get the inventory.

Commissioner Green stated they needed a report card for all of the parks. He stated they need to be categorized on a needs assessment. He stated he was disappointed that Shiloh was not in the top 3 or 4. He asked where they were with finding someone to oversee this department. Mr. Dixon stated they were developing it now. Mr. Dixon stated they hoped to do those things now for certain parks in terms of upgrades. He stated the park in Sawdust is wide open and could easily add new equipment.

Commissioner Simpkins stated it bothers her because a couple months ago they said for them to get the parks ready for the summer. She stated now they want an inventory and it would take longer to do that. When they meet again, the kids would already be almost going back to school. Commissioner Simpkins stated she did drive around to see the different parks and they do need upgrades, but they are useable. She stated there was nothing at the East Gadsden Recreation Park. She stated they were quick to do things like the Bicentennial, but when it came to having things for the community, it was a long process. It was not fair for that community to not have anything for the summer. She stated they needed to put a number out there and say they want to spend that amount on parks. They were not meeting again until August.

Commissioner Holt stated if they spur tourism, they will make money. She stated that was why they were having these events. She stated hopefully they will have some things to produce more money in those areas. She asked Mr. Dixon if the Parks have already been done, was there a dollar amount on them? If not, then they still need to say what was coming first, second, etc.

Commissioner Green wanted to make it clear to Commissioner Simpkins that he was not against that community park having equipment, but they need a needs assessment. They need to grade the other parks. He stated they need to know if certain parks need to be shut down temporarily, so that no one is injured because they do not want any other unnecessary lawsuit for things they could have prevented.

Chair NeSmith asked Mr. Dixon if they could get an assessment of all their parks. They need a chart and need to know the conditions of the parks. Mr. Dixon stated there was no budget until now for parks. It did not and still does not have a budget. He stated Commissioner Simpkins changed the trajectory of that park. He stated they will have that information for them ASAP.

Commissioner Simpkins stated it was about what the community wants. The community would like for their kids to have somewhere to play. She stated while they were waiting for the funding on the multi-purpose center, she wanted the playground area for those kids.

Mr. Dixon went on to Item 13. This item seeks Board discussion and direction of an agreement with Florida Gulf and Atlantic and Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners to reconstruct railroad crossings at Shady Rest Road and Scotland Road. He stated inside the rails, it belongs to the railroads. Outside of the rails belongs to the County or the City.

Commissioner Green asked how long were they anticipating on the wait and the research that DOT is doing. Mr. Dixon stated they will be back in touch this week. Commissioner Green asked what were they expecting from DOT. Mr. Dixon stated they were expecting some clarity on whether or not they have to reimburse them and also the level of participation in terms of whether or not they were responsible for outside of the railroad, as a fiscally restrained county. Commissioner Green asked if they should go into a whole dialogue about this without having direction from DOT. Mr. Dixon stated he would ask for the Commissioner to table this item until they get more clarity. Commissioner Green stated he was thinking the same, to wait until they give a full synopsis of it.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she was getting weekly calls about those railroad tracks. She was under the assumption they were about to get this taken care of. She asked when were they hearing from DOT and who was doing the repairs. Mr. Dixon stated inside the tracks, the railroad will do the repairs. Outside of the tracks, his understanding was that the County would be responsible. They were still trying to figure out to what degree. Commissioner Simpkins asked Mr. Dixon when was DOT going to reach out to them? Mr. Dixon stated as soon as they possibly could. He stated they spoke with DOT last week. Chairman NeSmith asked Commissioner Simpkins if the callers were saying that the railroad was impassable? Commissioner Simpkins stated the callers were saying it was affecting their tires. She stated those railroad tracks are terrible. Chairman NeSmith asked Mr. Dixon if DOT had observed the tracks. Mr. Dixon stated he was not sure if the gentleman he was speaking to had been to that area, but some representatives and the railroad track have been out there and they agreed it was in bad shape. Commissioner Simpkins asked what was DOT determining. Mr. Dixon stated they were determining who pays inside of the tracks. They know the railroad track pays, but do they have to reimburse them. He stated the County was responsible for the outside track but because they are a fiscally restrained County, how much were they responsible for that. Mr. Dixon stated when they call back, he thinks they will have those answers for him.

Commissioner Holt stated if they were fiscally restrained, would they consider applying for funding under SCRAP or SCOP.

Chairman NeSmith asked if the issue was coming from inside or outside of the track. Mr. Dixon stated the issue was coming from inside of the track. Chairman NeSmith asked how many tracks were there in Gadsden County. Mr. Dixon stated about 20 sets of tracks. Commissioner Holt stated citizens should slow down for the tracks. She stated the track in Gretna was bad.

Mr. Dixon went on to Item 14. He stated this item seeks approval of Bridge Renaming Policy. Commissioner Holt stated she thought there needed to be 2 or 3 names proposed and to also have the citizens from that road sign off. Chair NeSmith asked the County Administrator if this policy was drafted from somewhere. Mr. Knowles stated he could not find any bridge renaming policy in the state. He stated one of the things discussed while they were developing this was how would they keep a bridge from being renamed over and over. Commissioner Green asked what made him do the research. Mr. Dixon stated he had received a request. Commissioner Green asked how soon were

they looking for an answer or for this process to take place? Mr. Dixon stated as soon as the Board decides.

Commissioner Holt stated the petition process should be in place. She suggested that the policy should state that it needs to be at least 10 years before they could rename the Bridge again.

Commissioner Green asked how logical was it to allow Planning and Zoning Board to be involved in this process as well? Mr. Knowles wanted to verify with Commissioner Green if he was stating that as part of the policy, the renaming request has to go before Planning and Zoning first, then go to the Board? Commissioner Green stated yes, he thought it should.

Bishop Green appeared before the Board. He stated they should have a requirement in the renaming that the person should have some kind of meaningful contribution. He stated they did not want to name a bridge after someone who had been a terrible person.

Mr. Dixon went on to Item 15. He stated this item seeks approval of the Gadsden County Emergency Services Education Agreement. Chief Hood appeared before the Board. He stated they were asking to bring this back to them due to major amendments to it. He stated Paramedic School, EMT School, and Fire School had increased over the years. They had a \$5,000 limit for tuition reimbursement and they moved it up to \$6,000. They also moved up the years the employee has to pay back employment to the County. It was a contract for 2 years and they moved it to 3 years. He stated the surrounding counties had started to pay for the EMT, Paramedic, or Firefighters for their actual school hours. Chairman NeSmith wanted to clarify that they have budgeted \$25,000 for the education reimbursement. Chief Hood stated yes, they also have \$12,000 allocated within the fire budget for fire related education.

Commissioner Simpkins wanted to clarify that they were asking for an increase of the amount that they would reimburse for each person. Chief Hood stated correct. It was a 2-year contract and now will be a 3-year contract.

Commissioner Green stated they were asking for more, but based upon what? Chief Hood stated this agenda item was not asking for additional funding, it was just asking for them to approve the contract agreement.

2. Discussion Items by Commissioners:

Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2

Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4

Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5

Commissioner Eric F. Hinson, District 1

Chairman Kimblin E. NeSmith, J.D., District 3

Commissioner Holt stated that her comment was that they limit the amount of time they give for comments in the regular meeting. They need to say 5 or 10 minutes because they were going too late into the night. They need to make sure to vote on that tonight. Mr. Knowles stated it was currently in an ordinance, so they need to advertise the ordinance. He stated they could direct them to advertise it and bring it back to them.

Commissioner Green asked if they were pulling item 13 and 14? Mr. Dixon stated yes.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

MOTION TO ADJOURN THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH DECLARED THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED AT 5:52 P.M.

REGULAR MEETING 6:00PM

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair NeSmith started the meeting at 6:02 pm. Mr. Barkley Lewis provided invocation. Chair NeSmith led into the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair NeSmith asked Mr. Dixon if there were any amendments to the agenda.

Mr. Dixon stated they were adding Item 2A, a presentation of Bicentennial Proclamation and Item 15A, approval of Bicentennial calendar.

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

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

1. Proclamation recognizing National Homeownership Month – June 2023

Mr. Dixon presented the above Proclamation for National Homeownership Month. Chair NeSmith presented the proclamation to the Housing Department, recognizing National Homeownership Month.

2. Proclamation honoring Pretrial, Probation, and Parole Supervision Week July 16th – July 22nd

Mr. Dixon presented the above proclamation. Chair NeSmith presented the award to Ms. Rylands. Ms. Rylands thanked her Staff for their hard work.

2A. Recognition of Bostick Temple Christian Center

Commissioner Green presented the recognition of Bostick Temple Christian Center to Deacon Sanders.

CONSENT

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER GREEN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.

3. RATIFICATION MEMO

4. BOCC MEETING/ WORKSHOP MINUTES

- a. April 11th, 2023 @ 12:00pm Strategic Planning Workshop
- b. May 15, 2023 @ 5:00pm ARPA / CARES Funds Workshop
- c. May 31, 2023 @ 4:00pm Special Meeting

5. **Approval of Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles - Memorandum of Understanding - Annual Certification Statement**
(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator / Temeka L. Rollins, Probation Division Manager)
6. **Approval of the Bridging Barriers, LLC Contract**
(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator / Temeka L. Rollins, Probation Division Manager)
7. **Approval of New Road Name "Searcy Lane"**
(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator / Morris Young, Sheriff Rachel Harrison, Enhanced 911 Coordinator)

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS (3-MINUTE LIMIT)

The Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners welcomes and encourages public participation at all meetings of the Board. Citizens are free to speak for up to three (3) minutes on non-agenda items. Public comments and participation are also encouraged for items on the agenda.

Additionally, if you are unable to attend a meeting in person, comments from the Public can also be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until noon on the date of the meeting. Comments submitted after the deadline, but prior to the meeting, will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting. Citizens are further encouraged to participate via Zoom using the credentials on the County's website. The Board's meetings are also broadcast live on the Board's Facebook page.

Mr. Dixon read aloud the above statement.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Alma Venisee, 155 Martin St. Quincy, FL

Ms. Venisee appeared before the Board. She stated the Rapid Rehousing Program was an intervention designed to help individuals and families to quickly exit homelessness, return to housing in the community, and not become homeless again in the future. She stated there was a shortage in housing in Gadsden County, and also a shortage of rental properties.

Commissioner Green and Commissioner Simpkins gave thanks to Ms. Venisee for her services.

Commissioner Hinson appeared at 6:29 pm.

Commissioner Holt stated normally they had everyone present during budget time. That way they could be funded for the next term. She stated if that was the case, if Ms. Venisee would be willing to speak with each Commissioner individually and give them more details.

GENERAL BUSINESS

8. Approval of Lease-Purchase of Two Frazer Chevy 3500 Type I Ambulances

Mr. Dixon presented Item 8. He stated they were seeking the Board's approval to finance the replacement of EMS units that have reached their end-of-life stage.

Chair NeSmith asked which route did they want to take. They have options. Commissioner Simpkins stated the first option.

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

9. Reappointment to the Quincy-Gadsden Airport Authority

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. This item is seeking approval to re-appoint Mr. Ralph Higdon as one of the Gadsden County representatives to the QGAA.

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

10. Havana Middle School Sidewalk – Change Order # 01

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. He stated this item seeks approval of Change Order #1 for Havana Middle School Sidewalk decrease in the amount of \$5,230.00.

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

11. Havana Middle School Sidewalk – Change Order # 02

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. He stated this item seeks approval of Change Order #02 for Havana Middle School Sidewalk decrease in the amount of \$300.00.

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

12. Approval of Purchase for Playground Equipment for East Gadsden Recreation Park and Multipurpose Complex located at 2162 Fantana Trail

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. He stated it seeks approval of purchase for playground equipment for East Gadsden Recreation Park and Multipurpose Complex.

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THIS ITEM AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND; THE MOTION WAS LATER WITHDRAWN.

Commissioner Holt stated she cannot support this park until they get the inventory in. They need to look at the cost and see what they need to do.

Commissioner Green stated there was 3 quotes under this item. He asked which quote were they considering. Curtis Young appeared before the Board. He stated they were looking at Quote 3. Commissioner Green asked if they knew the timeframe for the other 2 quotes? Mr. Young stated 2 months was the timeframe. He stated Beyond Your Ordinary was a company in Jacksonville and they have the equipment installed now. They just need to decide if they want to just get the equipment or get the equipment and then install it. Commissioner Green asked if the \$64,426.00 for Quote 3 was with the installation. Mr. Young stated that was right. Commissioner Simpkins stated if they could table this to give the County Administrator time to check and see if they could get the installation at a

lower price. Chair NeSmith stated they could have a special meeting on this. Commissioner Hinson verified they have to pay \$20,000 extra for installation. He asked how soon. Mr. Young stated they have the equipment in Jacksonville; it would take 2 months to get it installed. Commissioner Hinson stated he was looking at mental health. He stated they need to do something to get kids and senior citizens moving. He stated he would prefer to wait the 2 months; timing is essential. Commissioner Holt stated she agreed with the park getting done, they just do not have a plan. Commissioner Simpkins stated she wanted to table it and give it to the County Administrator to give him time to see if he can find an installer other than the company Beyond Your Ordinary. Commissioner Hinson stated they needed to have a special meeting. Commissioner Simpkins stated yes and all agreed.

13. Discussion and Direction of Agreement between Florida, Gulf & Atlantic Railroad Construction and Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners

(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator / Curtis Young, Public Work Director)
Item pulled.

14. Direction and Approval of Policy 2023-003 – Bridge Renaming Policy

(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator / Clayton Knowles, County Attorney)
Item pulled.

15. Approval of Gadsden County Emergency Services Education Agreement

(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator/ Kris Hood, EMS Director)

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. This agenda item seeks approval of the Gadsden County Emergency Services Education Agreement.

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

15A. Approval of Bicentennial Calendar

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. It was seeking approval of the Bicentennial Calendar and items on it so they could get things moving. He stated the calendar has the work of the committee and what they perceive in terms of cost.

Commissioner Green verified if the County Administrator was asking that they accept this by way of a motion. Mr. Dixon stated yes.

Commissioner Hinson asked if they could discuss this in the special meeting. He stated this was his first time looking at this. Commissioner Green stated he was comfortable with this item because he has been involved with the process and interacting with individuals. He stated they are so behind when it comes to solidifying the type of people that they were trying to bring, they have to have things in place like 6 months ago. He stated they would not be able to solidify any of these dates until they could get some funding. He wanted to make sure to make the process easy for the Clerk as well as the County Administrator.

Commissioner Simpkins stated they should have an itemized budget for each of the events. Mr. Dixon stated that was not a problem.

Commissioner Hinson stated if a Commissioner has heartburn with an item, it was standard that they read through it first.

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

CLERK OF COURT

16. Updates

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

17. Updates

Mr. Dixon stated he wanted to make sure that everyone was aware that the Bicentennial kickoff was on Saturday at 10AM at the Courthouse square.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

18. Updates

Mr. Knowles stated they need to have another SHADE meeting. He stated he will get with the County Administrator to schedule it. He also wanted to state to cherish your loved ones.

Mr. Knowles requested a motion for the SHADE meeting.

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

19. DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

20.

Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2

Commissioner Simpkins wanted to request a Proclamation for the Bicentennial.

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

Commissioner Simpkins stated she loved the Love Where You Live campaign. She stated it was getting a lot of traction on social media. She wanted them to keep encouraging their friends and family to love where they live. Commissioner Simpkins asked where they were with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Mr. Dixon stated they were still waiting on some Commissioners to provide representatives. Commissioner Simpkins stated Broadband was a big concern. She asked when they ask for letters of support, if they were looking to see where they were looking to provide service? Mr. Dixon stated yes, in general they will show a little bit since they consider that proprietary information. Commissioner Simpkins stated in District 2 there are areas where people can work from home, but they could not because of the lack of service.

Commissioner Simpkins stated on Saturday, there will be a Shaw Quarters Community Action Committee. They will be celebrating the senior citizens. She stated this will be held at the Washington Masonic Lodge and will take place between 2pm to 4pm.

Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt stated on July 11th, there will be a Town Hall Meeting at Gretna City Hall in Gretna. They will also have another one at St. Johns Church on the 17th. Commissioner Holt stated she would like to bring back the Ordinance on commission meetings and include time limits on comments. She stated they were running way into the night due to the comments section. Mr. Knowles stated they did not need to vote on this and he would get with the County Administrator.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5

Commissioner Green asked if they could get a list of requirements or things that are objectives to know how to find the right people for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. He stated he hoped they could get some attention to the Courthouse on painting it. Mr. Dixon stated they just applied for a Preservation Grant. Chair NeSmith asked Mr. Dixon if they are not able to just go in and paint it because it was a historical building? Mr. Dixon stated correct. Commissioner Green stated the welcome sign in Midway did not make him feel Gadsden proud. He stated it needed some attention. Ms. Steele stated she had gotten with Mr. Young and they have already spoken on this. Mr. Dixon asked if they could clean it up in the meantime. Ms. Steele stated yes.

Commissioner Green thanked Ms. Burns and Mr. Stiell for putting on a great Housing program. Commissioner Green stated he wanted an update on the Stevens School project. He was aware that they have been granted an extension on the funding piece of it. He stated the Sherriff was responsible for having conversations with some appropriate people to make sure they had that extension. Commissioner Green wanted to make a proclamation to honor their Sheriff from the Board on behalf of them.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER GREEN AND SECOND BY CHAIR NESMITH, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO HONOR THEIR SHERIFF.

Commissioner Green wanted to ask each Commissioner to make themselves available to the Boys and Girls Club. Commissioner Green stated he would like a motion for a proclamation for Bishop Elect J.D. Harris.

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

Commissioner Green stated Dr. Littles was a native to the Shiloh Community. She accomplished many great things and wanted to give her a proclamation. He wanted to asked the County Administrator to start the process of getting them some numbers of what it would take to include Dr. Littles on the mural. Commissioner Holt stated to do another one because that would attract tourists.

Commissioner Eric F. Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson wanted to thank Alpha Kappa Alpha. They had 37 small businesses show up for the Biz Crawl.

Commissioner Hinson asked Mr. Dixon what was the deal with the Summer Youth employment. He stated there was list of 60 people on a thread and an email was sent out saying they were denied getting a job. He stated it was an embarrassment that 59 other people had to see that their child did

not get a job. Mr. Dixon stated they had accepted almost over 250 kids into the program. He stated the only people who were denied were not denied because of space. They accepted every kid they thought they possibly could. He stated there were people from the program that have gone to people's houses looking for documents that were needed from them. It requires a kid and a parent to put in a little work. Commissioner Hinson stated from his understanding, all the information was sent on time and there was still no reply to the email. He stated he wanted an emergency meeting on this. The information was sent on time and there was no reply to emails. He asked Mr. Dixon about the mass email that was sent out to the 60 people who were denied. Mr. Dixon stated they sent an email out to the ones who were not eligible for the program. Commissioner Hinson asked if it was a blind copy or could everyone see who did not get accepted? Mr. Dixon stated he was not sure about that and he would have to check. Commissioner Hinson stated he will call them tomorrow morning and ask them to send him the documentation itself and he will forward it to Mr. Dixon.

Commissioner Simpkins suggested to Commissioner Hinson to ask the County Administrator to check on those individuals tomorrow with Ms. Maas and follow up with him. Commissioner Green stated they follow a process. He stated the 3 individuals he spoke with who had issues getting into the program were able to get accepted because he went behind the scenes and intervened. Commissioner Hinson stated they were talking about one or two students, but he was talking about 60 students.

Commissioner Hinson stated he wanted to thank again everyone that came out for the Biz Crawl. Commissioner Simpkins stated she wanted to thank the Sheriff's Department for their service. She stated their Officers responded well to a call on a mental health issue.

Commissioner Holt stated August 16th is the anniversary of the Lake Talquin drowning where 17 people drowned. She stated they need to put a recognition at the Blessed Hope Church and at the Lake. She also stated that when they request workshops, if they would go ahead and provide information to them for the agenda item.

Commissioner Kimblin E. Nesmith, J.D., District 3

Chair NeSmith asked the County Administrator where they were with the Website. Ms. Steele stated they gave out a report stating it would be launched in August. Chair NeSmith stated they needed to look at how they were going to move forward with all the great non-profits. They need to think about having a department or division that could assist in empowering these non-profits. Commissioner Green asked if they have filled the Grant Writer position or were they still searching? Mr. Dixon stated the position was filled. Chair NeSmith asked the County Administrator about the Stevens School. Mr. Dixon stated they were getting close to starting. Chair NeSmith stated he wanted to echo what Commissioner Hinson said earlier about losing Mrs. Figgers, who was a pillar to the community. Commissioner Hinson stated he wanted to mention someone else who has passed away, Ms. Lovett from Havana. He stated she had a great spirit and a great heart. Commissioner Green provided a green light moment.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:02 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FL

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JUNE 22, 2023 AT 3:00 P.M.,
THE FOLLOWING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: **Kimblin NeSmith, Chair, District 3**
 Eric Hinson, Vice-Chair, District 1
 Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2
 Brenda Holt, District 4
 Ronterious “Ron” Green, District 5 – appeared by phone
 Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
 Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
 Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court
 Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk
 Adriana Quijada, Secretary to the Boards

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair NeSmith called the meeting to Order at 3:04 pm, asked for a moment of silence and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

Commissioner Holt arrived at 3:05 pm.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Accept the Audit Report presented by Purvis & Gray

Mr. Dixon introduced the auditors present, Ryan Tucker and Megan Camp from Purvis & Gray.

Ryan Tucker, CPA, Purvis & Gray appeared before the Board to present the audit to the Board. He said they were receiving an unmodified opinion on the County’s financial statement, which was a clean audit. There were no material weaknesses in internal control over financial reporting under Government Auditing Standards. There were a couple of budgetary matters noted on the Sheriff, Property Appraiser, and Supervisor of Elections.

There were no compliance issues to report.

Single Audit

When the County spends more than \$750,000 of Federal or State grant expenditures, they have to do a single audit report. They had to do one for Federal and State and there were two major Federal grant programs that had to be looked at on the Federal side and three on the State side. There were no compliance issues to report.

BOCC Finding

BOCC did not perform a comprehensive inventory of capital assets in accordance with F.S. 274 and reconcile that inventory to the underlying capital assets subsidiary records. It was recommended that a physical and inventory be performed annually and reconciled to the capital asset subsidiary records.

Property Appraiser

The Property Appraiser incurred expenses that exceeded budget which resulted in a deficit in fund balance at year end. It was recommended the property appraiser's budget be amended within statutory requirements (60 days of year-end).

Supervisor of Elections

The Supervisor incurred expenditures that exceeded budget which resulted in a deficit in fund balance at year end. It was recommended the Supervisors' budget be amended with statutory requirements (60 days of year-end).

Sheriff

The Sheriff's budget was not properly amended to include additional proceeds from terminations of Enterprise leases. It was recommended the Sheriff's budget be amended within statutory requirements (60 days of year-end).

Florida Statutes require each county officer to make an annual report to the Board of revenues and expenses within 31 days of close of fiscal year. The Sheriff's books and records were not closed and ready for audit until January 2023. He added that was primarily a staffing issue in the Sheriff's accounting department. It was recommended procedures to be implemented to ensure that the books and records are closed in a timely manner

Significant Events and Financial Highlights:

County-wide Revenues

Program Revenues jumped around from a one year to the next depending on grants that were going on and in 2021 the CARES and ARPA program were going on more significantly and that was why grant revenues were higher.

General Revenues

The property taxes, sales tax, State Shared Revenues and Local Option Taxes were trending upward and increased new revenue.

County-wide Expenses

Expenses were higher in 2021 mainly due to CARES and ARPA. Expenses were down from the prior year by approximately \$5.4 Million or 11.2%.

General Fund Unassigned Fund Balances

Unassigned Fund Balance has been trending upward of just under \$5 Million and was about 2.6 months of annual expenses.

Selected Financial Information

General fund has surplus of \$473,548; County Transportation had a loss of \$210,092; EMS Fund received a transfer from the Board late in the year that brought that into a positive balance; Indigent Surtax fund has \$1 Million surplus and Building Inspection fund has a surplus of \$135,991.

Summary of Federal and State Grant Activity

There were 15 Federal grants and 28 State grants with a combined total of \$8,189,139.

Capital Asset Activity

- Capital Expenditures totaled \$5.7 m in FY 2022
- EMS Department acquired medical equipment for \$769k and ambulance for \$218k under installment purchase agreements
- Public Works acquired equipment totaling \$639k
- Sheriff's Office leased 5 new vehicles totaling \$190k
- Road projects included Point Milligan Road (\$1.6M), Potter Woodberry Road (\$71k), Cochran Road (\$567k), Point Milligan Road Bridge (\$110k) and Hardaway Highway \$189k

Long Term Debt

- Paid off Library bonds in 2022
- Financed purchase of EMS equipment totaling \$769k (10 years at 1.135%)
- Financed purchase of ambulance for \$218k (5 years at 3.3%)
- Sheriff leased 5 vehicles totaling \$190k (4-year terms at 6.83%)
- Reduced debt by paying down \$2.2M of outstanding bonds, notes and installment/lease obligations; balance of outstanding debt at 9/30/22 totals \$15.3 million

Overall the County reduced their long-term debt by \$2.2M and left the balance of outstanding debt totaling \$15.3 million.

Required Communications

Mr. Tucker said they had to implement a new accounting standard, GASB 87 on leases.

Future Accounting Developments

Mr. Tucker said there is an accounting standard, GASB 96, that will be required to record a "right to use" asset and corresponding liability for all noncancelable SBITA's that exceed one year. This asset and liability will be reduced (expensed) over the life of the agreement.

Commissioner Holt asked to look at the last page and said they needed a dedicated person to handle this and need a standardized form to input all the information. Also, on the end of year reporting, they need to have the report ready at least 30 days before the end of the 60 days.

Commissioner Simpkins asked about the licensing issue as it related to the IT, if their IT Department covered licensing for all Constitutional offices. Ms. Daniels said she knew they did for BOCC and thought the Constitutionals were responsible for their own licensing.

Megan Camp said it was important to clarify it was not limited to IT specific licenses and explained it was any type of software where there is underlying agreement, such as software that goes into platting system for Property Appraiser; software on laptops in Sheriff's vehicles, etc.

Commissioner Green said overall, they had a good audit but who was responsible for the preliminary reports?

Ms. Daniels said Procurement would be the point person because Procurement also handles a lot of the tagging of the inventory.

Commissioner Hinson said he noticed the Sheriff had his response and asked where their response was. Mr. Tucker passed out their response to the Commissioners.

Chair NeSmith asked if the Constitutionals were addressed for their budget that they exceeded. Ms. Daniels said they made an amendment to the budget but it was after the 60 days. They will be working with them more closely in the coming year.

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

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 3:38 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

KIMBLIN NESMITH, Chair
Board of County Commissioners


ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk


**AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JULY 14, 2023 AT 1:30 P.M., THE
FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

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


CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

 Chair NeSmith called the meeting to order at 1:33 pm, asked for moment of silence and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

GENERAL BUSINESS


 Mr. Dixon turned the meeting over to the County Attorney, Clayton Knowles.

1. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Case No. 2022 CA 500

 Mr. Knowles said they scheduled this meeting to discuss possible settlement of the Figgers lawsuit. He explained in order to prevail, the Plaintiff would have to recover 125% of whatever offer they were inclined to make.

Commissioner NeSmith said one of Commissioners wanted to obtain follow-up information from the hearing that was held.


Mr. Knowles said two out of three issues were ruled on in the County’s favor, the verification documents were admitted, his deposition was not permitted and the County’s request for inspection of Mr. Figgers’ facility was not permitted. The Judge ruled they could not yet look at the website information, they requested to look at the back-end website that was created for this project and the Judge stated they first needed to depose the creators of that web site.

 Commissioner Holt said the Judge ordered mediation and they had already had one and Mr. Knowles stated they were both Court ordered. She said it was stated by the Judge that all five Commissioners were to attend mediation. Mr. Knowles stated the Order issued did not require all five to attend, it would be a designated corporate representative there because of Sunshine issues if they were all in the room. She said his Order superseded that. Mr. Knowles explained the Order issued did not require all five to be present. She felt they needed to have a mediation and do what the Judge said to do because if he could not prove what he had, could not inspect what he had, he has not turned in what he had opposed to what he sold so how would they verify and know what they were paying for. Mr. Knowles advised, as their County Attorney, they not all attend, the Order that was issued did not require all five to attend and he was not comfortable because of the Sunshine Law. He stated he understood the Judge’s position, but

did not recommend they all be together at mediation. It could be a potential lawsuit for an improper meeting.

There was further discussion regarding the issue.


Chair NeSmith said he was also listening in on the hearing and asked about discussion regarding the Sunshine issue. Chair NeSmith asked if the Judge required a second mediation and Mr. Knowles said there would be another mediation. Chair NeSmith asked the significance of making an offer and Mr. Knowles explained the proposal for settlement would start the clock ticking on their attorney's fees so if they do not recover whatever the County's proposal for settlement was. He gave an example that if it was \$100,000 and they do not recover \$125,000, they would have to pay the County's legal fees, win or lose, from the date of the service of proposal for settlement until the date of the verdict.

 Commissioner Simpkins asked if mediation was open to the public and Mr. Knowles said no.

Mr. Knowles explained if one attended, it was fine, but if all attended it would need to be noticed as a special meeting.


She said when looking at the actual settlement, was there a bare minimum that was possibly owed for what was distributed and was told yes. She asked if they would be looking at legal fees for those? She asked if they were suggesting settlement because of legal fees they would possibly incur if Plaintiff prevailed and Mr. Knowles said correct. He said the jury may decide the County breached and there was no fraud and they could be looking at more legal fees. He said to look at the proposal for settlement as a tool to recover attorney's fees.

Chair NeSmith asked when opposing council made the statement he wanted all Commissioners to be at mediation, was he not thinking of the sunshine violation and what was their concern? Mr. Knowles said he thought their concern has been there could be a settlement and it would not be ratified by the Board.

 Mr. Dixon asked if they have been ordered to mediation, what was the purpose of today's meeting? Mr. Knowles said it was about the proposal for settlement and not about the mediation.

Chair NeSmith asked what else could occur at mediation besides a proposal that is presented to them. Mr. Knowles said the proposal for settlement was a document sent to the other side stating if they wanted to resolve the case, attached was a number, if you do not get this number at trial, they would have to pay their attorney's fees.

Mr. Dixon said today's meeting was a strategy for trial and Mr. Knowles said exactly.

 Commissioner Holt said their offer should be what they know they owe as today, everything else was hypothetical.


Chair NeSmith asked if they had proper documentation for the amount owed. Mr. Dixon said the amount is \$1,765.20.


Commissioner Holt said to offer \$20,000. Mr. Knowles said the point of proposal for settlement was for him to have a number big enough so if they did not get that amount, the attorney's fee trigger kicks in. He said they did not have to accept it, it just needed to be big enough that they could not recover in trial.


Commissioner Holt asked what a reasonable proposal would be.

He felt if they were in the range of \$300,000, it would be sufficient because he did not believe they could meet that at trial, they could not recover that amount of damages at trial.

Commissioner Holt asked for clarification on what the attorney was attempting to explain to them.

 Chair NeSmith said if they do not recover 125% of what the offer was, they would have to pay the County's attorney's fees from the date of service of the proposal. Chair NeSmith then said even if they prevailed and damages was not 125% of the offer, they would have to pick up the County's attorneys' fees and the County would not be responsible for the damages or their attorney's fees? Mr. Knowles said they would still be responsible for damages and would be offset by the attorney's fees. If they were the prevailing party, the County would be on the hook for theirs, but they would get the offset for what was paid for their own.


 Commissioner Hinson said based on documents he received, the last figure was \$375,000, and he was ok with going with \$400,000. He said they were at zero percent chance at first and was now at 25% chance. He said he would prefer to close out at \$400,000 because of the possible breach of contract. He said he did not want to say too much at this meeting. He felt they should go with \$400,000 and cut their losses.

 Commissioner Holt said no, they had people that did the work, evidence they did the work, he needs to produce the evidence and paying above what he was owed was wrong. She said she was sticking with \$100,000. She felt that was more than enough.


COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO PROPOSE TO SETTLE FOR \$400,000. MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.


 **COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO PROPOSE TO SETTLE FOR \$100,000. MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.**


Commissioner Hinson said he was opposed because the Board agreed, for the record, of an amount of \$375,000.


 Commissioner Simpkins asked Mr. Knowles the last amount they went to them with and he responded \$375,000. Commissioner Simpkins asked if they did not take it and he said no. She asked if they have gone back to them since then and Mr. Knowles said no, that was part of the reason for the meeting today. Commissioner Simpkins and said her stand was since they proposed \$375,000, did that still stand as an offer? Mr. Knowles explained this was a document, if they take it, their approval was needed for it. She said her only concern was they were saying


there was \$1,725.20 based on what was verified. If they go to court, if they rule and say they were owed that amount and because they owe that amount, they were owed for their attorney fees and now their attorney trumps up his charges to an astronomical amount. She said she did not want to give the money but that was where she was at.


 Commissioner Holt said you do not go into mediation with the best offer, they can trump up their charges any time they want to.

 Mr. Dixon wanted to make clear, the \$375,000 that was offered, they did not take it.


 Commissioner Hinson said from his understanding, they started at \$1.2 Million, the County asked for \$375,000, they came back with \$400,000 and then the attorney said additional information was found and they went from zero chance of winning to 25% chance of winning. He said he was trying to save the County. He said the attorney was also telling them they could be liable for up to \$1.1 Million. He said why not settle the case at \$400,000 and save the County money.


 Chair NeSmith said they have two opportunities between the proposed offer and the mediation.


 Commissioner Hinson said if they wait until next week, it would be too late.


 Commissioner Simpkins made a clarification this was just for an offer they were giving so if they do not take and they prevail in Court and not prevail with 125%, this was just starting the clock and Mr. Knowles said yes.


 **COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION TO PROPOSE SETTLEMENT AT \$200,000 AND CHAIR NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HOLT HAD A QUESTION.**

 Commissioner Holt said the other information that was requested by the County Attorney has not been received from the Plaintiff and she wanted them to know it has not been received and therefore they do not know what the percentage is.

 Commissioner Hinson said the only reason he was clarifying himself, when you make the number, someone gives some information out, he had to make sure people knew why he was doing what he was doing. He said the County was at risk of breach of contract and was the issue for the \$1.7 Million.


 Commissioner Holt said there was no proof the County breached the contract. There was also proof of them not delivering to the County. There was no evidence either way because they have not gone to court yet.


 Commissioner Hinson said he was giving verbatim what was told by the County Attorney.


 **CHAIR NESMITH CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 3-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE SETTLEMENT OFFER OF \$200,000. COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED. ******


CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD (3-Minute Limit)


The Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners welcomes and encourages public participation at all meetings of the Board. Citizens are free to speak for up to three (3) minutes on non-agenda items. Public comments and participation are also encouraged for items on the agenda. Additionally, if you are unable to attend a meeting in person, comments from the Public can also be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until noon on the date of the meeting. Comments submitted after the deadline, but prior to the meeting, will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting. Citizens are further encouraged to participate via Zoom using the credentials on the County's website. The Board's meetings are also broadcast live on the Board's Facebook page.

 Chair NeSmith read the above statement aloud.

 Commissioner Hinson said it was brought to his attention about a fire in Quincy and a shooting that happened simultaneously. It was reported to 911 and he asked why they had to call the County for something that happened in Quincy.

 Mr. Dixon said a couple of years ago, the Board purchased approximately \$5 Million of upgrades to the dispatch system in an attempt to upgrade the E911 system. There was a lot of discussion regarding the cities coming onto the system. The County has been working with them to come onto the system and they were in conversation regarding same. The call comes into the E911 system and if they were not part of the E911 system, which Quincy is not, another call has to be made to the Quincy dispatcher. They were attempting to create a single dispatch system.

 Commissioner Hinson said they need to have a meeting regarding this.

 Commissioner Holt said the towns were supposed to join of onto the system.

**** At this time, **Leslie Steele**, Public Informations Officer, informed the Board that Commissioner Green was attending by phone and wanted to make sure his vote for the settlement offer registered as a yes vote. The County's Zoom system was down and he could not participate via Zoom but wanted to make sure his vote counted.

Attorney Knowles had stepped out and it was asked if the vote could be changed. Deputy Clerk, Marcella Blocker, stated as long as it was done in the same meeting, it could be changed.

VOTE TAKEN EARLIER FOR SETTLEMENT OFFER OF \$200,000 WAS UPDATED TO SHOW COMMISSIONER GREEN'S VOTE AS AFFIRMATIVE MAKING THE VOTE 4-1 WITH COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSING.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
July 14, 2023 – Special Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH DECLARED
THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 2:32 P.M.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JULY 14, 2023 AT 1:30 P.M., THE
FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

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

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair NeSmith called the meeting to order at 1:33 pm, asked for moment of silence and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Mr. Dixon turned the meeting over to the County Attorney, Clayton Knowles.

1. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Case No. 2022 CA 500

Mr. Knowles said they scheduled this meeting to discuss possible settlement of the Figgers lawsuit. He explained in order to prevail, the Plaintiff would have to recover 125% of whatever offer they were inclined to make.

Commissioner NeSmith said one of Commissioners wanted to obtain follow-up information from the hearing that was held.

Mr. Knowles said two out of three issues were ruled on in the County’s favor, the verification documents were admitted, his deposition was not permitted and the County’s request for inspection of Mr. Figgers’ facility was not permitted. The Judge ruled they could not yet look at the website information, they requested to look at the back-end website that was created for this project and the Judge stated they first needed to depose the creators of that web site.

Commissioner Holt said the Judge ordered mediation and they had already had one and Mr. Knowles stated they were both Court ordered. She said it was stated by the Judge that all five Commissioners were to attend mediation. Mr. Knowles stated the Order issued did not require all five to attend, it would be a designated corporate representative there because of Sunshine issues if they were all in the room. She said his Order superseded that. Mr. Knowles explained the Order issued did not require all five to be present. She felt they needed to have a mediation and do what the Judge said to do because if he could not prove what he had, could not inspect what he had, he has not turned in what he had opposed to what he sold so how would they verify and know what they were paying for. Mr. Knowles advised, as their County Attorney, they not all attend, the Order that was issued did not require all five to attend and he was not comfortable because of the Sunshine Law. He stated he understood the Judge’s position, but did not recommend they all be together at mediation. It could be a potential lawsuit for an improper meeting.

There was further discussion regarding the issue.

Chair NeSmith said he was also listening in on the hearing and asked about discussion regarding the Sunshine issue. Chair NeSmith asked if the Judge required a second mediation and Mr. Knowles said there would be another mediation. Chair NeSmith asked the significance of making an offer and Mr. Knowles explained the proposal for settlement would start the clock ticking on their attorney's fees so if they do not recover whatever the County's proposal for settlement was. He gave an example that if it was \$100,000 and they do not recover \$125,000, they would have to pay the County's legal fees, win or lose, from the date of the service of proposal for settlement until the date of the verdict.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if mediation was open to the public and Mr. Knowles said no.

Mr. Knowles explained if one attended, it was fine, but if all attended it would need to be noticed as a special meeting.

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Chair NeSmith asked if they had proper documentation for the amount owed. Mr. Dixon said the amount is \$1,765.20.

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COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO PROPOSE TO SETTLE FOR \$400,000. MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

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COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION TO PROPOSE SETTLEMENT AT \$200,000 AND CHAIR NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HOLT HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner Holt said the other information that was requested by the County Attorney has not been received from the Plaintiff and she wanted them to know it has not been received and therefore they do not know what the percentage is.

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Commissioner Holt said there was no proof the County breached the contract. There was also proof of them not delivering to the County. There was no evidence either way because they have not gone to court yet.

Commissioner Hinson said he was giving verbatim what was told by the County Attorney.

CHAIR NESMITH CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 3-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE SETTLEMENT OFFER OF \$200,000. COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED. ***

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD (3-Minute Limit)

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Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
July 14, 2023 – Special Meeting

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Chair NeSmith read the above statement aloud.

Commissioner Hinson said it was brought to his attention about a fire in Quincy and a shooting that happened simultaneously. It was reported to 911 and he asked why they had to call the County for something that happened in Quincy.

Mr. Dixon said a couple of years ago, the Board purchased approximately \$5 Million of upgrades to the dispatch system in an attempt to upgrade the E911 system. There was a lot of discussion regarding the cities coming onto the system. The County has been working with them to come onto the system and they were in conversation regarding same. The call comes into the E911 system and if they were not part of the E911 system, which Quincy is not, another call has to be made to the Quincy dispatcher. They were attempting to create a single dispatch system.

Commissioner Hinson said they need to have a meeting regarding this.

Commissioner Holt said the towns were supposed to join of onto the system.

***At this time, **Leslie Steele**, Public Informations Officer, informed the Board that Commissioner Green was attending by phone and wanted to make sure his vote for the settlement offer registered as a yes vote. The County's Zoom system was down and he could not participate via Zoom but wanted to make sure his vote counted.

Attorney Knowles had stepped out and it was asked if the vote could be changed. Deputy Clerk, Marcella Blocker, stated as long as it was done in the same meeting, it could be changed.

VOTE TAKEN EARLIER FOR SETTLEMENT OFFER OF \$200,000 WAS UPDATED TO SHOW COMMISSIONER GREEN'S VOTE AS AFFIRMATIVE MAKING THE VOTE 4-1 WITH COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSING.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 2:32 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A BUDGET WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON AUGUST 1,
2023 AT 4:00 PM, 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
 Ronterius “Ron” Green, District 5
 Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
 Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
 Tammy Young, Clerk’s Office
 Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair NeSmith started Workshop at 4:07 pm. Chair NeSmith led into a moment of silence and Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

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GENERAL BUSINESS

1. **Introduction/FY 2023/2024 Tentative Budget Overview**

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. He stated they have prepared big numbers in terms of what they believed to be their priorities. He stated they will ask tonight to approve a millage rate higher than what they have.

Ms. Daniels appeared before the Board. She stated they will present highlights of what was going on in the budget. She stated Ms. Burgess would be doing the presentation today. Ms. Daniels stated this budget was developed utilizing their current millage rate of 9.0000. The maximum is 10 mills. She stated they were going to be asking them at the regular meeting to set the tentative millage rate. They will also approve dates for 2 public hearings in September. She stated they could lower the millage rate before the final budget is adopted. They cannot raise it once they set

the tentative millage rate. If they raise it, they need to send out trim notices to every property owner in the County.

Commissioner Green asked if they could have what they currently have on their desk at least a few days prior to have time to go through it.

Chair NeSmith asked the County Administrator if they had any questions, who to direct them to. Mr. Dixon stated Mrs. Burgess, Ms. Daniels, or himself.

Ms. Burgess began her budget presentation. She stated the budget for 2024 is currently 63.4 million dollars. Chair NeSmith asked if that was the highest budget the County has experienced. Ms. Burgess stated yes.

Ms. Burgess stated the County Transportation is 5.8 million, which represents 9%. The EMS fund is 4.7 million which represents 8% of the total budget. The total of all the debt service funds was 3.1 million, which is 5%. The indigent ordinance surtax fund is 3% of their total budget, 2 million. Chair NeSmith asked which category was the Sheriff's located at. Ms. Burgess stated Fine and Forfeiture.

Ms. Burgess mentioned the FY 2024 changes in expenditures:

Sheriff's Office \$423,494
Supervisor of Elections \$137,579
Tax Collector \$103,000
Property Appraiser \$96,602.
EMS \$301,159
Economic Development \$169,166
Increase in FRS \$411,000
Capital Projects \$780,500
Elderly Affairs \$836,042
Total: \$3,258,542

Commissioner Green asked if there was breakdown of the increases and the purpose of them. Ms. Burgess stated not in this package but they could provide those details.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she knew previously there was no budget for Elderly Affairs. She asked about the \$836,000 for 2023-24. Ms. Daniels stated they approved the budget of around \$475,00 for Elderly Affairs department for 6 months. She stated the \$836,000 was the amount for a full year. Commissioner Simpkins asked if they were able to maintain that level of expenditures, that was her concern. She asked what was the amount of the award. Ms. Daniels stated she was not sure if they award any specific amount. Mr. Dixon stated the \$475,000 did not include construction.

Commissioner Green stated they discussed in previous meetings that that particular Board that had been re-organized was going to also fight for other funding sources. He asked if they have started to apply. He asked if the \$836,000 would fit in their budget. Ms. Daniels stated the revenue that would support the \$836,000 would be partly coming from the grant, the congregate

meals portion. She stated the rest was being funded from leftover funding of the American Rescue plan.

Chair NeSmith stated he did not anticipate the \$836,000 and he had a lot of questions about this. Commissioner Green asked when were they scheduling their next workshop. He stated even if they budgeted the \$836,000, how long would they be able to do this? Mr. Dixon stated they have something called At A Glance where they are able to see all the numbers that are in Elderly Affairs. He stated there were also 2 positions that were carried in the Administrator's budget.

Chair NeSmith asked if they had any residual income coming to Gadsden Senior Services other than the 2 grants from 2 years ago. Mr. Dixon stated triple A had not increased their numbers in terms of people. He stated they had a funding source for the future that they will talk about.

Commissioner Simpkins stated if 2 of the positions from the Administrator was rolled over into Elderly Affairs, was there a decrease in the administrator personnel? She asked if it would balance out since it was no longer under the County Administrator. She asked if they replaced that expense with something else. Mr. Dixon stated no. Commissioner Simpkins stated then those 2 positions would balance out. Commissioner Simpkins stated her concern was sustainability. She asked in this budget, are they giving them funding again or are they going to be bringing funding to their Elderly Affairs Department. Mr. Dixon stated both elements of the plan have to move in concert to provide for this program. He stated they were mindful of the numbers that were out there.

Commissioner Green asked what was left with the ARPA budget. Ms. Daniels stated they have about \$3.8 million dollars. They did not have the remaining balance in the package. She stated they have to have that money allocated by next year and spent by 2026. She stated on the last page of the packet were some recommendations for the expenditure of the ARPA funds. She stated there was an agenda item going to the Board today to spend some of it this year. It would leave about \$3.4 million dollars.

Commissioner Green stated in reference to non-profits outside of senior services, they were supposed to have a workshop about the amount of funding that they would like to offer and categorizing some of the funding in certain areas. He stated they needed to get back on those workshops so they do not lose that money.

Ms. Burgess stated on pages 12 through 14, shows the expenditures by Department. Commissioner Simpkins stated under the County Commissioners Budget, there was a difference of \$309,000. She mentioned Ordinance 618 and stated they went up to \$250,000. She stated they were at \$80,000 for Black History and they also have Black History included in the \$250,000. Commissioner Simpkins stated she was fine with them having a good time, but they need to make sure they were being good stewards of their citizen's funds. Ms. Daniels stated the majority of that increase for the County Commissioners Budget was their liability insurance which went up \$250,000.

Commissioner Holt stated it has been a procedure that each Commissioner call the Administrator, sit down with the Budget Department, or whomever, and go do this. That way they would have a change to bring those numbers. She stated when they ask for these processes to be put in place,

They need to say that they want a reporting on how it affects the budget.

Commissioner Simpkins stated a lot of the times when she asks questions, she pretty much already had the answer but her constituents should know. Mr. Dixon stated that their intent was that in the next week, one of them would have the opportunity to meet with the staff and go through the numbers.

Commissioner Green asked what changes would be made from this document. Ms. Daniels stated they could have it up to date with what those numbers entailed. Commissioner Green asked how soon would they expect to see whatever changes were made. Ms. Daniels stated they were at a point where they were pencils down, until they got direction from the Board. The budget is tentatively balanced, unless they make some changes between now and the first public hearing. She stated when they presented that packet, they did not have all of their revenue estimates in.

Commissioner Simpkins stated for the foundation, if they were going to up to \$15,000, then they need to be making sure that they were doing something for their citizens. The kids going to FAMU need to benefit. She stated they needed to make sure it was earmarked for Gadsden County citizens and that they are getting some type of scholarship out of the \$15,000. She stated the Black History budget is still more because that \$15,000 really goes into the Black History budget. Mr. Dixon stated that was the object of the donation to the foundation. Commissioner Simpkins asked Dixon if the kids had received a scholarship. Mr. Dixon stated yes. Ms. Steele stated the scholarship was set up for band students. They have not had a band student applied for that scholarship. Commissioner Simpkins stated they needed to make sure to have the scholarship available for more students not just band students.

Ms. Burgess mentioned the Florida Retirement System and stated there was an increase required in funding which was a \$411,000 impact to their budget for retirement. She stated due to increase in inflation, there has been an increase in operating expenses such as supplies, postage, insurance, etc. She stated they did the one-time transfer of fund balance from debt service library fund to the general fund. Related to the debt service library, that funding was coming from the local government half cent sales tax. Since that has been paid off, something has to be done with those funds. In the FY 2024 tentative budget, the estimated \$2,029,003 proceeds from the half cent sales tax have been budgeted as a reserve for the following services:

Elderly Affairs: \$507,251
Summer Youth Program: \$507,251
Community Center: \$507,251
Parks & Recreation: \$507,251

Ms. Burgess mention the Love Where You Live Campaign, including the following: advertising, signage, and multimedia. In addition, it includes community cleaning campaign spearheaded through public works. It also includes mobilization and equipment. It also includes enforcement personnel, hearing, postage, and magistrate. For FT 2023-24, and additional \$160,000 were allocated to fund this campaign. Ms. Burgess mentioned the general fund for Economic Development on page 19. The total Economic Development was \$378,040.

Ms. Burgess went on to page 20 from the packet. She stated right now, the budget was set at 9.00 millage rate and the total revenue generated at that millage rate would be 18.4 million. They budget 95% of that, so, 17.5 million. If they were to increase the millage rate to 9.25, it would be an additional \$487,675 that would be generated. Ms. Burgess stated page 23 of the presentation has some future outlooks of what they could do with some of the ARPA funds.

Commissioner Hinson appeared at 5:23 pm.

Commissioner Green mentioned page 18 and the 2 million dollars that are in those particular categories. He asked if they have to be allocated in that matter or if it was able to go into general funds. Mr. Dixon stated they could be allocated anyway they wish. Commissioner Green asked how long were they able to continue this. Mr. Dixon stated until 2038. Commissioner Green asked when that is over, were they able to vote again to ask for that half cent for continuations of the programs that they have instilled across the board? Mr. Dixon stated yes sir.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned page 12 of the packet. She asked what was the increase for regarding Gadsden Community Health Department. Ms. Burgess stated that was the liability insurance. Commissioner Simpkins asked what was the Aid to Private Organizations – Big Bend Transit. Ms. Daniels stated they pay for the Havana Express, the Quincy Shuttle, and Gadsden Express she believed. Commissioner Simpkins asked about the Gadsden County Senior Citizens and where the \$7,400 goes to. Ms. Daniels stated that was the insurance on the Simon Scott building. Commissioner Simpkins stated they have \$50,000 reserved for non-profits. She stated there was more than just one nonprofit in Gadsden County. There is more than one providing services to their youth. They have focused on one. She stated they should not pick and choose who they were going to be generous to.

Commissioner Simpkins stated when she got on the Board in November, there was \$500,000 allocated for the Boys and Girls Club for the purchase of a building. Now, she saw where they were at, with appropriation from the State, \$4,700,000. She wanted to know what the Boys and Girls Club were bringing to the table because there were other organizations that were providing services. Commissioner Simpkins also mentioned lighting and stated they do not have anything budgeted for it. She thought it was a safety issue that needed to be addressed.

Commissioner Holt stated they need to make something that generates money. She stated they have no money to spend if they do not make money. She stated if they were able to look at using the 2 million dollars to put pipes in the ground for sewer lines to increase business opportunities to come here. She asked if the 4 services shown on page 18 (Elderly Affairs, Summer Youth Program, Community Center, Parks & Recreation) would be able to be funded out of their regular budget. Ms. Daniels stated they currently already have budgeted for the Elder Affairs; they had the revenue from the grant and ARPA funds. Commissioner Holt stated if they did not have any more of those funds coming in, could they budget these items? Ms. Daniels stated they would not be able to fully fund Elder Affairs. Commissioner Holt stated she was trying to find ways to get infrastructure money.

Commissioner Holt stated the Economic Development plan requires more money. She stated they would not get any businesses with the \$378,000. They need to have serious plans in order to look

at those three I-10 exits that are left. She stated they needed to have an Economic Development plan.

Commissioner Green stated infrastructure was important. He wanted to have a more detailed conversation on this, especially now having a Director for Economic Development. Commissioner Green stated there was no way they could service their County with just \$50,000.

Commissioner Hinson asked the County Administrator if they still give tax abatements. Mr. Dixon stated yes to only one company. Ms. Daniels stated Hoover Company. Commissioner Hinson stated they needed to focus on Infrastructure. Commissioner Hinson mentioned having a plan on how they can use the \$2 million for infrastructure.

2. Questions/Answers

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH DECLARED THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED AT 5:52 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

KIMBLIN NESMITH, 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 AUGUST 1, 2023 AT 6:00
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING
WAS HAD, VIZ:**

PRESENT: Kimblin NeSmith, Chair, District 3
Eric Hinson, Vice-Chair, District 1
Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2
Brenda Holt, District 4
Ronterius "Ron" Green, District 5
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Tammy Young, Clerk's Office
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair NeSmith welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. He asked Commissioner Green to give the Invocation and then led in Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

Amendments and Approval of Agenda

Mr. Dixon asked to pull items 1 & 5 and add new Item 1, Recognition of Jaylen Martin, Item 1a- Proclamation of Sheriff Morris Young under Awards, Presentations and Appearances and add items 17a and 17b under General Business.

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

Awards, Presentations and Appearances

~~1. Recognition of Bishop John D. Harris~~
Pulled

1. Proclamation to Jaylen Martin
The Proclamation for Jaylen Martin was read aloud by Chair NeSmith and it was presented to him.

1a. Proclamation to Sheriff Morris Young
Commissioner Green read aloud the Proclamation and it was presented to Sheriff Young.

Consent

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

2. Ratification Memo

3. BOCC Meeting/Workshop Minutes:

- a. June 5, 2023 @ 4:00pm Organizational Workshop
- b. June 6, 2023 @ 4:00pm Pre-Meeting Workshop
- c. June 6, 2023 @ 6:00pm Regular Board Meeting
- d. June 20, 2023 @ 4:00pm Pre-Meeting Workshop
- e. June 22, 2023 @ 3:00pm Special Meeting

4. Approval of Narcotics Tracking Software Agreement Between Gadsden County Emergency Services and Schedule 2 IT

5. Approval of Agreement with Sonitrol to upgrade the User Access to the Edward J. Butler Building

Pulled

6. Approval of Modification #1 to reinstate the FY 2021-22 Emergency Management Performance Agreement #G0231

Items Pulled for Discussion

Citizens Requesting to be Heard on Non-Agenda Items (3-minute limit)

The Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners welcomes and encourages public participation at all meetings of the Board. Citizens are free to speak for up to three (3) minutes on non-agenda items. Public comments and participation are also encouraged for items on the agenda. Additionally, if you are unable to attend a meeting in person, comments from the Public can also be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until noon on the date of the meeting. Comments submitted after the deadline, but prior to the meeting, will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting. Citizens are further encouraged to participate via Zoom using the credentials on the County's website. The Board's meetings are also broadcast live on the Board's Facebook page. Commissioner Simpkins read the above statement aloud.

Public Hearings

Chrissy Shorter Arnold, 121 James CR Quincy, FL

Chrissy Shorter Arnold appeared before the Board to discuss two issues in this County. Number one was suicide prevention. Her second issue was financial literacy.

Commissioner Simpkins thanked Ms. Shorter and stated she would like her number. Commissioner Simpkins stated was working on something and would love for her to be apart of it.

Commissioner Hinson also thanked Ms. Shorter and stated a couple years ago he attended a suicide meeting at Florida A&M University. He stated he was not aware that there are more suicides than homicides. Ms. Shorter stated it was because they are not talking about it. Commissioner Hinson stated they have more suicides in Tallahassee than homicides. Mental health was important. Commissioner Holt stated for Ms. Shorter to get with the County Administrator.

Janet Watson, 2793 Sycamore Road

Janet Watson appeared before the Board. She stated she would like to give her three minutes to her husband.

Mike Watson, 2793 Sycamore Road

Mike Watson appeared before the Board. Mr. Watson stated Commissioner Hinson has 2 roads that are in poor shape in his district. Commissioner Simpkins has 3 roads in her district in poor condition. He stated Commissioner Holt has Ben Bostick, Jack Drive and Mount Pleasant Road that are in poor shape. He stated Commissioner Green has Casey Lane, Jim Williams Road, and Augustine Road in poor condition. He stated there are 14 roads in poor condition.

Chairman NeSmith asked the County Administrator if he knew about the list Mr. Watson was talking about. Mr. Dixon stated they will get a list for him.

Pastor Willie Gaines, 577 Ben Bostick Road Quincy, FL

Pastor Gaines appeared before the Board. He wanted to thank the Board and the County Administrator for the work that was going on in the Friendship Community. He stated the sidewalks were complete and they were doing the finishing work on them. They also now have speed bumps on Frank Jackson Road. He stated they were having their 3rd annual trash roundup coming up next month. He passed out a flyer to the Board. He stated it was important to keep their community clean.

Commissioner Holt stated they discussed an issue about a property in the Friendship area and she asked Pastor Gaines if he got to the right department about that issue. Pastor Gaines stated not yet, he was waiting to get more contact with Commissioner Holt to see which direction they need to go in. Commissioner Green thanked Pastor Gaines and appreciated him coming before the Board. Pastor Gaines wanted to thank the County Administrator for allowing him to have his personal phone number to make sure that whenever he had issues, he could call him.

Linda Clemons, 621 David Clemons Road Quincy, FL

Ms. Clemons appeared before the Board. She stated she was there for the plead of recognizing her sister who lost her life on one of the bridges in Gadsden County. She stated her name was Erlene Clemons Chandler. It was a 5-car accident on Attapulcus Creek Bridge County Road 159. Ms. Clemons stated her family was asking for them to rename that bridge in honor of her name to give them closure and a peace of mind.

Willie Chandler, 673 Glade Road Havana, FL

Mr. Chandler appeared before the Board. He is the son of Erlene Clemons Chandler. He stated he was never able to cross that bridge until it was remodeled. It was a peaceful spot for him now.

Michael Brown

Mr. Brown appeared before the Board. He stated he wanted to thank them for the financial blessing that they give them every year. He stated they need more audio, visual, and media assistance so that people could know what he does.

Laurice Thomas, 1510 Escadrille Drive Tallahassee, FL 32308

Ms. Thomas appeared before the Board. She stated she was there to speak on Agenda Item 12. Chair NeSmith stated they will wait until they get to that Item then.

General Business

Chair NeSmith called for a motion to move up Agenda Item 16. He stated they did not want to hold up the Gadsden County staff.

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION TO MOVE UP AGENDA ITEM 16 AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS MOTION.

7A. Approval of a One-Time Employee Bonus for Eligible Gadsden County Sheriff Office Staff from ARPA funds

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. He stated it seeks approval for a one-time Employee bonus for Eligible Gadsden County Sheriff Office staff from ARPA funds. It proposes a one-time bonus payment of gross \$3,000 for full-time employees and \$1,500 for part-time employees.

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

7. Approval to Confirm the Director of Economic Development

Mr. Dixon introduced TJ Lewis, the new Economic Development Director. Mr. Lewis thanked them and stated the last 3 weeks have been fresh air to him. Commissioner Holt stated she was excited for him and was hoping to come up with a plan to look for some real funding before they finalize the budget. Commissioner Hinson stated he was passionate about Economic Development. He asked the County Administrator would this position be writing grants and expanding business. Mr. Dixon stated yes.

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

8. Approval of Authority to enter negotiation regarding opportunity to Lease space for New Economic Development Office

Mr. Dixon stated as they were making their rounds throughout the County, one of the things they noticed was that the Marie Brooks Gallery that features the art of another native son Dean Mitchell, was closed and had a for sale sign on it. He wanted them to consider leasing with Mr. Mitchell.

Commissioner Green wanted to clarify that Mr. Dixon was asking for an approval of this agenda item. Mr. Dixon stated yes. Commissioner Hinson stated he believed in buying not leasing. That way they could be able to own their stuff and it would show the community that they were in the business of buying.

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

Commissioner Green stated he agreed with Commissioner Hinson as it related to investment and buying properties. He knows that facility is for sale, so he would like to know about the possibility of negotiating the price to where they could purchase that facility. He hoped that the Attorney and County Administrator would work with the owner of the building to start working numbers.

9. **Approval of Appointments to the Tourist Development Council**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. He stated there were two applicants, Ronte Harris and Charles Williams, who are seeking to be appointed to serve on the Tourist Development Council.

Commissioner Green asked if they knew how many people applied for this. Mr. Dixon stated those were special positions. Ms. Steele stated the two applicants have already participated in workshops. She stated they reach out and ask them if they want to be involved in the process. Commissioner Hinson asked why a school board member could not be a part of this. Mr. Knowles stated the statute sets who is on it. They have to be a bed tax collector, one from the largest municipality. He stated if the school board member was a bed tax collector and fit the other statutory requirements, they could serve.

Commissioner Simpkins stated in the analysis on the agenda item it stated that the County distributed the application for membership on various mediums to attract the appropriate candidates. From what she understood, those applications were not necessarily where you had applications being distributed and then you had people that actually applied for it. There were two people chosen and those people were placed on there. So, if the Council is just choosing then maybe it needs to change to say that the Council decides who they want to apply to be on the Tourist Development Council. Commissioner Simpkins asked if there was an additional opening for a person of tourist interest; where would that application be found? Mr. Knowles stated in the past, they typically reached out to Commissioners and then Commissioners could recommend folks from their district who fit the bill based on the vacancy. He stated the vacancy right now is not a bed tax collector, it is just a person who is interested in tourism. He stated he was not sure how the actual application goes out. Ms. Steele stated they also have the application on their website. So, they are able to submit an application, however, they do have to replace their bed tax collector. They are looking for someone who owns a hotel or is in the bed tax business. They also have the Tourist Interest vacancy.

Commissioner Hinson asked Chairman NeSmith if he could bring back to them how many years everyone has been on the Tourism Board to make sure they were in compliance. He stated it was Chairman NeSmith's responsibility to serve on the Tourism Board. Chairman NeSmith asked the County Administrator if he could get them the names of the members on that Board.

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

10. **Approval to Award RFP 23-05 Emergency Management Contractual Services to The Integrity Group Professional DBA of Blue-Sky Emergency Management, LLC**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. He stated it seeks Board approval to authorize the Manager to negotiate the contract and for the Chairman to execute the contract.

Commissioner Simpkins stated when doing RFPs, she would like to see the proposals for each of the applicants. Commissioner Hinson stated normally they would interview the top 3 candidates of the score. The Board determined who they approved from that point. Commissioner Simpkins requested that it be pulled because she would like to see the proposal's first. Commissioner Holt stated she was ready to vote. She stated she calls Mr. Dixon to have him explain certain items to her. Commissioner Green wanted to know what the time sensitivity was in these items. He asked if this was something they could put off until the next Board meeting. Mr. Dixon stated that was hard to quantify. He stated all of them have to do with hurricane preparedness so they will certainly move it if they want to. The other ones had to do with their hiring of an Architecture. Ms. Daniels appeared before the Board. She stated they have big binders for the responses to the RFPs. They are following the procurement policy. She stated those documents are available in the procurement office but it would be difficult to include it as an agenda item because sometimes they are big thick binders. Commissioner Green stated in the future, if they could include that summary every time for the sake of transparency.

Commissioner Simpson stated when she was taking a look at the actual award and looking at the time from which the sign in of the evaluation, if those packets were really that big, then she was not sure how they were able to open at 10:00 and end at 10:30 with four different proposals. So, that particular RFP, the response obviously was not that large. Ms. Daniels stated the bid opening was just that, the opening of the bids so that they record who submitted a bid and what the time was that they submitted it. She stated the bid evaluation is totally separate.

Commissioner Hinson stated it was about transparency. He mentioned interviewing each person that way each Commissioner could know what they were looking at. Commissioner Green stated it was listed in the package that if they wanted this information, they could have requested it via email. He supported having a summary of each one. Commissioner Hinson stated he wanted to be transparent so other people could have the same information that they have. Commissioner Holt stated it was their responsibility to check out the agenda items; they have two weeks. They could call the County Administrator regarding any items showing on the agenda. Commissioner Simpkins stated she just received this on Thursday. She did not have time to reach out to them. She agreed with Commissioner Hinson that if they were doing contracts, then, those top three should come before them and state the services they provide.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE MOTION. COMMISSIONER HINSON AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS OPPOSED.

11. Approval of the Contract with Clemons, Rutherford and Associates, Inc. for Architectural Services

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item.

Commissioner Hinson he has worked with the before. He stated fairness needed to be in the process. He stated they are a great company but the process needed to be fair. He stated it could not be fair if they did not give the other groups a chance to go out there. He stated they need to make sure they get the top three. Commissioner Green stated it was not in their policy as of right now. He stated he would like for them to start doing that, but they have followed procedures already in place. They need to trust the staff that has done these particular applications. Commissioner Green stated they could correct them if he was wrong, but to his understanding,

they did not interview the top three individuals. Ms. Daniels stated the interviewing of potential respondents to RFPs is not a part of their current procurement policy and they have to follow the policy that they have adopted. Commissioner Green asked Ms. Daniels if they were following the state procurement policies or could they add their own niche to it as it related to being a part of the process of the top three. Attorney Knowles stated there were certain requirements that they had to follow. If there were things that Commissioner Green wanted, they could add those. Commissioner Hinson stated they could table all of this and get it right. There is no rush.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND CHAIRMAN NESMITH SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE MOTION.

12. Approval to Award RFP 23-07 Emergency Debris Removal Services

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item.

Laurice Thomas appeared before the Board. She stated she is the Director of Development for the Big Bend Minority Chamber of Commerce. She stated with Gadsden County being the only minority-majority County in Florida, they should be a leader in creating opportunities for minority-owned companies to scale up and build wealth. She encouraged them to reject all of these bids because they lack minority points or participation. She stated if they could work with minority businesses and build capacity so that they would have the opportunity to come as a prime contractor.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she knows they have a couple small businesses in Gadsden County. She asked if they take a look at the companies that would be managing it and if they would sub-contract with companies here, particularly minority companies. She stated it could be up to a million dollars for this debris contract. She asked if they make sure that the people they contract with, like entrepreneurs and small business owners, are saying they do have something in place. She mentioned a policy where they will be subcontracting with some of their smaller debris companies. She asked if the contract expired. Mr. Dixon stated yes, this was a new RFP. Mr. Dixon stated the Commissioners have made it very clear regarding minority participation. He stated they are just getting to the point where they could actually not only see it in verse, but could follow it up in terms of policy. Commissioner Simpkins stated Mr. Dixon was right in saying that a lot of them are not prepared and ready for the federal contract. She asked how committed are those people that they are rewarding millions of dollars to. Mr. Dixon stated all parties have to be. The primary contract holder has to be prepared.

Commissioner Holt stated after Hurricane Michael, they had two debris removal companies at that time. She stated they were the only one in the region that already had a debris removal company already signed up. She stated they have to look at their policy and procedure and put those points in where they want them at. She mentioned putting in points for hiring minority contractor.

Commissioner Green asked how do they identify those minority businesses. He mentioned reaching out to the minority chambers as a Board to find out what services they provide and if they meet the necessities for subcontractors.

Commissioner Hinson mentioned seasonal work and stated subcontractor was making \$5-7,000 a day. It was life changing, especially for small businesses. He asked what happened to the Contractor that they had last year.

CHAIR NESMITH CALLED FOR THE VOTE TO ACCEPT CALL OF THE QUESTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT. THE BOARD VOTED BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR OPTION ONE OF THIS AGENDA ITEM. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM. COMMISSIONER HINSON AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS OPPOSED.

13. Approval to Award RFP No. 23-04 EMS Billing Services to Digitech Computer, LLC

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. He stated this item seeks approval to award RFP No 23-04 for EMS Billing Services to Digitech Computer, LLC for the County's EMS billing services.

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

14. Approval of Resolution 2023-014 Grant Budget Amendment for FY 2023

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. He stated this item seeks approval and 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 2023 BOCC budget.

Commissioner Hinson asked if there was anything in there that was not approved. Ms. Daniels stated these were all grant budget amendments.

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

15. Approval of Calendar of Events and Estimated Expenses for the Gadsden County Bicentennial Celebrations

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. He stated this item seeks approval of the events planned for the Bicentennial Celebration. The Clerk's office had asked that they further outline things to their very best.

Commissioner Simpkins said some events, especially in September, should be itemized. She asked if the mega-reunion still had a concert. Mr. Dixon stated no. Commissioner Simpkins asked about the funding. Charles Hayes appeared and said funding was \$4,000. Mr. Dixon stated yes. Commissioner Simpkins stated she saw nothing celebrating Hispanics. Chair NeSmith asked if it was based on recommendations of the advisory board. Mr. Hayes stated yes. Commissioner Green stated he was glad Commissioner Simpkins brought that up because there is a Hispanic that he is close to that he recommended to contact her regarding the Bicentennial. He asked which month do they have the Hispanic event. He stated maybe they could consider giving money towards that event. Chair NeSmith asked Mr. Hayes if there was a cross section of representatives on the Advisory Board; if it was a reflection of their entire County. Mr. Hayes stated almost.

Commissioner Green mentioned how far they were behind in regards to the Bicentennial. He stated on the County level, he was embarrassed that they had not paid vendors. Mr. Dixon stated next week they will review their procurement policy. He stated they want to be right and efficient. He stated they also invited the Clerk's office to come in and sit with them so they could all be on the same page.

Commissioner Holt asked if other schools have contacted the committee or had anything planned? She mentioned Chattahoochee, Greensboro, and Monroe. Mr. Hayes stated they have not heard from them. Commissioner Holt mentioned to Mr. Knowles that when looking at the procurement process of getting people for activities and they voted on what they want to do, she wanted to make sure that everything was legal.

Commissioner Simpkins wanted to make sure they were utilizing local artists and promote locals. She wanted to make sure they take advantage of the locals that have a big following here.

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

16. **Approval of a One-Time Employee Bonus for Eligible Gadsden County Sheriff Office Staff from ARPA funds**
Moved to Item 7A

17. **Approval of Millage Rate for TRIM Notification and Set the Date, Time and Place for the Public Hearings to Adopt the Fiscal Year 2023/24 Gadsden County Budget**

Ms. Daniels introduced the above item. This item seeks approval of the millage rate in TRIM notification and to establish the September budget hearing dates to provide this information to the Property Appraiser's office by August 4, 2023. She stated they have two proposed hearing dates. Their first hearing date is scheduled for September 12th at 6 pm. The second public hearing is scheduled for September 19th at 6 pm. Ms. Daniels stated that have to set a tentative millage rate today. She stated their current millage rate is 9 mills. The Fiscal Year 23-24 rollback rate is 7.8597. The July 1st taxable value provided by the Property Appraiser's offices for operating purposes was \$2,053,368,076 which is \$260,165,386 more than last year's taxable value of \$1,793,202,690. Pursuant to F.S. 200.065, the calculated rolled-back rate (ad valorem rate that generates the same amount of property tax revenue as last year) is 7.8597 mills which is 1.1403 mills lower than the current millage rate of 9.0000.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she wanted to make sure that when going through this budget, they are being fiscally responsible with the funds they already have.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR OPTION 3, APPROVAL OF 9.5 MILLS, AND CHAIRMAN NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM. COMMISSIONER HINSON AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS OPPOSED.

17a. Approval of Fuel Services Inter-Local Agreement

Ms. Daniels introduced the above item. This item seeks approval of a revised inter-local agreement with the Florida Department of Corrections for fuel services.

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

17b. Discussion and Direction of Agreement between Florida, Gulf & Atlantic Railroad Contraction and Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners

Ms. Daniels introduced the above item. This item seeks discussion and direction of an agreement with Florida Gulf & Atlantic and Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners to reconstruct railroad crossings at Shady Rest Road and Scotland Road.

Curtis Young appeared before the Board. He stated the cost to repair the tracks is \$10,176. He stated they would be responsible for the asphalt which would be \$25,000 per track. The total would be \$60,176.

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MOVED APPROVAL TO MOVE AHEAD WITH THE REPAIR OF THE TRACKS ON SCOTLAND ROAD AND SHADY REST ROAD AND COMMISSIONER HINSON SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

**18. Clerk of Court
Updates**

**19. County Administrator
Updates**

Ms. Daniels stated they have a movie night at Tanyard Creek. They will be showing Spider-man.

**20. County Attorney
Updates**

Mr. Knowles wanted to thank EMS, Ms. Daniels, and everyone who helped during his medical episode a few weeks ago.

Mr. Knowles stated he needed to make two quick motions. He is requesting a SHADE meeting.

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

Mr. Knowles stated they have mediation on the 15th. The court ordered them to produce a corporate representative. Typically, that is the Chair. Mr. Knowles asked for a motion to approve Chair NeSmith to attend that mediation.

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

21. Discussion Items by Commissioners

Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned safety concerns. She stated on the website, they have listed where they were asking for citizens input. She was not sure if they were going in and actually reviewing the comments. One of the comments she saw was about a safety issue as it related to the line on Salem Road. She stated it needed to be replaced. She asked Ms. Daniels if they could have Mr. Young to take a look at that. Ms. Daniels stated they could look into it and see if there was something they could do. She mentioned the increasing of funding next year for striping. Next year they will add an additional \$150,000 making the total \$300,000.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she wanted to make a motion to name the bridge to Earline Chandler Bridge. Hinson 5-0

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS TO NAME THE BRIDGE ‘EARLINE CHANDLER BRIDGE’ AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned the timeline on the parks. She was aware they received a breakdown and wanted to know the timeline as to when they will begin. Ms. Daniels stated they do not have a timeline. They need to get with their Engineers on some design issues for their parks. She stated they had a meeting with them a couple weeks ago and they were pretty close. There were some components they were still waiting to hear from. Commissioner Hinson asked why Havana was not on that list. He stated he went to Rich Bay Park and he could see through the building. Ms. Daniels stated those were just recommendations of the parks and it was not in concrete. She stated they could add an additional park depending on the funding. Curtis Young appeared and stated he did speak with the engineer about those parks and they will be here on this coming Thursday to meet with him and Ms. Daniels.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned Granicus and stated she was aware that August was supposed to be the date. She asked where they were with that. Ms. Steele stated they were getting ready to start training staff on how to do the website.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned Mosquito Control. Curtis Young appeared and stated they already looked at a Contractor and they were setting up a date for the Contractor to meet with the County Administrator.

Commissioner Simpkins stated that on Saturday there will be a teacher supply giveaway at 11 o'clock at Ward's Lot. She stated she will be hosting a back-to-school drive and community day beginning at 12 o'clock at the St. Hebron Park on Saturday. She also mentioned that she needed a place to be able to meet with her constituents.

Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt stated she thought they were going to take a look at all the parks and then take action. Ms. Daniels stated they were looking at a timeline for all the parks. Commissioner Holt stated she intended for St. John to be one of those parks. Commissioner Holt asked how

many FRDAPs could they apply for in a years' time? Ms. Daniels stated she believed they could have two open. Commissioner Holt asked if there was an agreement for the railroad stops? Mr. Young stated the railroad company informed him that they have to look at it on a case-by-case basis. The agreements were not all the same. Commissioner Holt mentioned having a minority chamber. She stated there was nothing in their procurement process that would limit any minority from applying for these contracts.

Commissioner Holt asked for updates on the Massey building, Stevens School, Health Unit, and the agreement with the Hospital. She also wanted an update on repairs for Barack Obama Blvd.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5

Commissioner Green mentioned updates on Stevens School and the Boys & Girls Club. He stated they need to schedule the ARPA workshop as soon as possible. Commissioner Green stated on September 15th will be the Homecoming for Gadsden High School. He was contacted by the Booster Club asking for help from them. He stated he thought it would be great for them to work the concession stands. Commissioner Green mentioned that on August 7th, Impact Gadsden, which is a group of local ministers, are having a Back to School Prayer.

Commissioner Eric F. Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson stated he wanted to make a motion to change Jaylen Martin from a Recognition to a Proclamation.

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

Commissioner Hinson mentioned that Attorney Marva Davis was retiring and asked for a Proclamation for her.

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

Commissioner Hinson thanked everyone who hosted back to school events. He stated Midway City Hall will be hosting a back-to-school drive on Saturday.

Chairman Kimblin E. Nesmith, J.D., District 3

Chairman NeSmith congratulated Commissioner Green on being elected for Southern Regional Director. He stated it is August 1st, they have two contracts that are coming up soon and they were not going to wait until the last minute. They have the County Administrator's contract that ends December 1st. They need to discuss in a workshop on how to move forward with this. He also mentioned the Legal Services contract ends March 1st. Commissioner Holt asked for a copy of the contracts.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

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

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

NICHOLAS THOMAS, CLERK

**AT A WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON AUGUST 8, 2023 AT 2:00 P.M.,
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

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

****DUE TO TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES, THERE IS NO VIDEO****

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair NeSmith called the meeting to order at 2:09 p.m., asked for a moment of silence and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD (3-Minute Limit)

The Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners welcomes and encourages public participation at all meetings of the Board. Citizens are free to speak for up to three (3) minutes on non-agenda items. Public comments and participation are also encouraged for items on the agenda. Additionally, if you are unable to attend a meeting in person, comments from the Public can also be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until noon on the date of the meeting. Comments submitted after the deadline, but prior to the meeting, will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting. Citizens are further encouraged to participate via Zoom using the credentials on the County’s website. The Board’s meetings are also broadcast live on the Board’s Facebook page.

Commissioner Green read the above statement aloud.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Discussion and direction regarding the County Administrator’s Contract

Chair NeSmith said they were here to discuss the County Administrator’s contract. He said Commissioner Holt was the Chair at the time the contract was initiated.

Chair NeSmith asked if there was anything in the contract preventing the Administrator from having second employment and Commissioner Holt said there was never a discussion regarding same. Commissioner Holt stated she thought it was really what the Board wanted to do and that it could mean if you had an LLC or your own business, you could still have that.

Commissioner Green said that was where it could be complicated. They needed to make sure they had the correct language. He said they wanted a manager that would give them their undivided attention.

Mr. Knowles said there was only a conflict when it became a contractual issue.

Commissioner Holt said when Howard McKinnon was County Administrator, he also worked on the Gadsden County Health Council.

Commissioner Hinson said Howard McKinnon worked voluntarily for a non-profit. He also said the County Administrator’s job was a 24-hour job.

Commissioner Simpkins said she thought they were trying to make a distinction between having your own business and being employed. Because it happened in the past did not make it right. When talking about employment, they needed to make sure there was no conflict of interest.

Commissioner Green said sometimes it has to be specified exactly where the conflict may be.

Chair NeSmith said he had an opportunity to meet with Ms. Maas, Director of Human Relations Services, because he had some HR questions.

Commissioner Green had questions for Ms. Maas. Commissioner Green said he was glad to see how the Chair was approaching this as a position and not the person in the position. He had questions concerning the compensation. Chair NeSmith said that was a question he had also for Ms. Maas.

Ms. Maas said the FAC conducts salary surveys every other year and the last time it was done was 2021. That information is measured by the County’s budget. She asked to have an opportunity to ask around like counties for their information. Commissioner Green asked if she could give the highest salary for a City Administrator in the County and she said \$120,000.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if she had information for Jackson County or a county around the same size. She asked Mr. Knowles if he was aware of the information being available.

Commissioner Holt said this position was a base salary.

Commissioner Green said he understood Commissioner Hinson but to get to the point of having an applicant, they have to have a range of salary.

Chair NeSmith asked about the 90-day notification prior to the expiration of the initial term.

Commissioner Hinson said all contracts should come back to the Board.

Commissioner Simpkins said she brought this matter up in June, the fact that there was a 90-day expiration in the contract.

Commissioner Holt said there was nothing in Policy and Procedures that stated who was to bring this back. The Board makes policies and if they want this in there, they need to vote to put it in place.

Commissioner Hinson said it was good faith that the County Administrator would bring back all contracts, including his own, to the Board.

Commissioner Simpkins said the County attorney and the County Administrator by that work for the Board and when she started, she asked for a copy of the contract so she could review it. When she reviewed it, she saw if they did not do anything, the county administrator’s contract would automatically renew.

Commissioner Holt said they were the highest-level policy makers in the county. It is their job to put policies in place.

Chair NeSmith said they would now move to phase II. He said the discussion was if they were pleased with the person they had in place now.

Commissioner Green said not all of them would be perfect and he hoped they would learn from the errors they make. His personal opinion was if they kept changing hands, nothing would ever get accomplished. He said he has told Mr. Dixon he would have liked to have seen some projects completed before now. He felt they had a good manager, while there might be room for growth. He also would like to see some brick and mortar in the County. He also has met with the Administrator concerning staff morals.

Commissioner Holt said they have so many projects on the table and she wanted to see a project finished.

Commissioner Green stepped out at 3:01 pm.

She said they did better when Marlon Brown was here, they did not have to debate a contract, housing, or worry about any departments. She said money was coming in and it was time to move. She said they needed to see things done. It was not time to change in the middle of the race.

Commissioner Green returned at 3:03 pm

She did not think it was time to change and things were going well. They have to look at performance.

Commissioner Hinson said if there had been an Economic Development person, Amazon and other businesses would have been here and citizens would have had the chance to make \$20-\$30 dollars an hour.

Commissioner Holt said they were not able to fill those positions with the last 4 Administrators. They need a grant writer to push things through. She said when they advertised this position, the most qualified person was a young lady from Atlanta, the second most qualified was from South Florida. They need to finish the projects they have.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 3:17 pm

Commissioner Simpkins said she liked to be frank, she believed they needed to be more transparent.

Commissioner Holt returned at 3:20 pm

She did not want to feel there were emergencies, such as the property being purchased and now there is still no plan for it. She wanted things planned out, did not want contracts coming to her and this was a first to get something 10 days in advance. She said she was big on staff morale; people did not need to be job scared. There should not be a situation where an employee feels threatened when they are called into an office. They need to make sure they are using people that they have and the people being put into the position, they can do the job. She said there were some positions where their tax-payer dollars could be used a little better. She also wanted them to be smart on their spending, they did not have a big budget. They need to be good stewards of the citizens money.

Commissioner Hinson said the sense of urgency did not need to be urgent, just have a deadline.

Chair NeSmith said Commissioners Holt and Green had alluded to the fact that the County Administrator had a lot of moving parts. When he first arrived in 2020, he was excited to have a notional search for a County Administrator. He said the County was coming off a very lucrative budget cycle and had a lot of projects on the table. He said the Administrator had assembled a very great team and the County was moving in a great direction.

Commissioner Hinson said in 2025, they will not have a \$60 Million budget because the ARPA money will be gone.

Commissioner Simpkins said they needed to be clear it was nothing personal, she was about the business. The main goal should be to move Gadsden County forward.

Chair NeSmith said he had a general consensus they would move forward.

Commissioner Green said based on what he saw, he believed it was on the agenda it was on the agenda for the Administrator’s contract. He asked when they will have accurate budget information.

Commissioner Simpkins said the contract stated if they did nothing, the contract would automatically renew.

Mr. Knowles said it was an additional two years extension. if they were going to renew the contract, he would advise the board to enter into a notice of renewal.

Commissioner Hinson said he thought they could do it now, but if not, table this until next Thursday. He hoped they could have the information by Friday and have the workshop next Thursday.

Commissioner Holt said she agreed with the attorney and was in favor of leaving it the way it was and discuss salary with negotiations.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
August 8, 2023 – County Administrator’s Contract

MOTION TO ADJOURN

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH DECLARED
THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED AT 4:04 P.M.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**KIMBLIN NESMITH, 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 AUGUST 9, 2023 AT 2:00 P.M., THE
FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD,
VIZ:**

PRESENT: **Kimblin NeSmith, Chair, District 3**
 Eric Hinson, Vice-Chair, District 1
 Alonzetta Simpkins, District 3
 Brenda Holt, District 4
 Ronterius “Ron” Green, District 5
 Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
 Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
 Adriana Quijada, Clerk Secretary to the Boards

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair NeSmith started the Workshop at 2:02 pm. Chair NeSmith stated they were there to discuss ARPA and the budget. Commissioner Green provided Invocation. Chair NeSmith led into the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS (3-MINUTE LIMIT)

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GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Introduction

(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator)

2. FY 2024 Tentative Budget Highlights

(Jenifer Burgess, Budget Manager / Georgette Daniels, County Administrator)

- [American Rescue Plan \(ARPA\) Remaining Funds](#)

- FY 2023-24
- FY 2024-25
- FY 2025-26

Ms. Daniels stated Ms. Burgess will be giving presentation on the remaining ARPA funds.

Commissioner Green asked about funding for the Sheriff's department. He asked if funds have been transferred out of ARPA funds to whatever account needs to be in. Ms. Daniels stated that was in the process of taking place. Commissioner Green asked if they had a date on when the money would be released to employees. Ms. Daniels stated that would have to come from the Sheriff's department.

Chair NeSmith asked if they needed an agenda item to transfer those funds. Ms. Daniels stated they do. It was coming from one fund to another. Chair NeSmith asked if it was on the agenda item for the next meeting. Ms. Daniels stated no. Commissioner Simpkins asked if they could add it in Tuesday's meeting. Ms. Daniels stated it was too late to advertise. Commissioner Simpkins asked Attorney Knowles if it had to be in the local paper. Attorney Knowles stated it would have to be in either Gadsden County Times or The Democrat.

Ms. Burgess appeared before the Board. She stated the purpose of this Workshop was to get Board direction on how to allocate the ARPA funds. They need to be allocated by December 2024 and spent by December 2026.

Commissioner Hinson appeared at 2:14 pm

Ms. Burgess stated the remaining funds is \$3,469,049 to be allocated. She stated they made recommendations on how to allocate funds. For Fiscal Year 23-24, they have a total of \$2,005,000. Some of the recommendations made were to allocate \$475,000 to Elderly Affairs and \$200,000 for Grant match for various grant opportunities. Ms. Burgess stated for Fiscal Year 24-25, they have recommended allocation of \$1,360,000. \$475,000 for Elderly Affairs and \$360,000 for EMS Ambulance Remount were some of the recommendations. She stated there would be a remaining \$104,049 and they recommended that to go towards Parks Upgrade and Expansion.

Commissioner Simpkins returned at 2:16 pm

Commissioner Green asked if they were still going after grants for parks. If they get those grants, could they move those allocated dollars out of Parks and to something else. He stated they could get a lot out of FRDAP and other grants.

Ms. Daniels stated they are still utilizing the FRDAP grant process. She stated they could get over \$50,000. Ms. Daniels stated if they were to get additional funding through FRDAP grant process for Parks, then yes, they could re-allocate funding to something else.

Chair NeSmith stated Commissioner Holt will be attending through via speakerphone.

Commissioner Simpkins asked about the \$475,000. She asked if they would be able to sustain their Elderly Affairs Department.

Commissioner Green asked if they could give a number of the Grant they received already. Mr. Dixon mentioned the homemaking program. Mr. Dixon stated since they paid the debt off, one of the things they thought it could fund was Elder Affairs.

Commissioner Green asked what was the estimate amount budget wise. Ms. Daniels stated it was over \$800,000. Commissioner Green asked what was the estimate amount if awarded grant. Ms. Daniels stated \$500,000.

Commissioner Green wanted to get a general understanding of what they were looking at to sustain the \$380,000. Ms. Daniels stated it currently generates about 2 million a year.

Commissioner Simpkins asked when was the debt service paid off. Ms. Daniels stated she believed it was last fiscal year.

Commissioner Hinson stated he was an advocate for the Seniors. He mentioned public-private partnership. Commissioner Hinson stated they should not be talking about anything else other than infrastructure. Chair NeSmith stated he agreed with Hinson on Infrastructure

Ms. Daniels stated they could see what they are recommending but of course the Commissioners make the final decision.

Commissioner Holt asked how were they funding the Veterans transportation. Ms. Daniels stated it was through their general fund. She stated they have to fund those; they do not generate money.

Chair NeSmith asked Ms. Daniels if they had same grants for Veterans office. Ms. Daniels stated could not speak on behalf of Mr. Jackson.

Chair NeSmith stated they need to focus on infrastructure. He stated they need to provide resources to the Director.

Commissioner Holt stated the problem was that she asked for a grants department. There are grant dollars for Infrastructure.

Commissioner Green stated they have hired a grant director now; asked when she could provide a synopsis.

Chair NeSmith mentioned neighboring counties budget was \$200 million due to going after Grants. He asked if they had individuals here in the County who was going after grants besides the Director.

Commissioner Green stated even if the others are not experienced to go after grants, they need to have that individual who is spear heading.

Commissioner Simpkins stated when she is looking at the budget, they are paying some nice salaries. She believed they are capable of putting grants together. Each department could provide their information.

Commissioner Holt appeared at 3:00 pm

Chair NeSmith asked Ms. Daniels how did Chief find Grants. Ms. Daniels stated she could not speak for Chief Hood but grants were unique to the area that he works in.

Chair NeSmith stated if a department brings in \$100,000 and they could supplant... Ms. Daniels stated there were rules against that. They cannot use a grant to supplant what they already funded.

Commissioner Green asked about the projective outlook on the funds. He asked when did they have to solidify it. Ms. Daniels stated by December 2024.

Commissioner Green stated if they hired Economic Director then they need to hear from him.

Ms. Daniels stated this list was developed based on the guidance provided from ARPA funding.

Chair NeSmith asked if all the directors hired go to workshops or conferences where those grant resources are constantly discussed. Mr. Dixon stated for the first time almost everyone traveled this year. They all are searching for Grants.

Commissioner Green stated that his concern as it related to the Economic Director was what he was needing for Infrastructure. They need to know what their future looks like.

Commissioner Holt stated the Economic Development portion requires funding. She asked what kind of funding. Mr. Dixon stated they would recommend to them that they dedicate a piece of that revenue source to economic development to build that pot.

Chair NeSmith asked the County Administrator if they have a Grant Coordinator. Mr. Dixon stated no.

Chair NeSmith asked when was the next strategic planning workshop.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 3:34 pm.

Commissioner Hinson stated a person in Housing created positions to hire people.

Holt returned at 3:36 pm.

Commissioner Green stated they need to sit down individually with the Economic Director. He asked Mr. Dixon what they could use for Infrastructure.

Mr. Dixon stated if they could give him a couple weeks. He has been meeting with plan counsel.

Chair NeSmith stated this was an urgency for them. They need to be focused on getting jobs in Gadsden County. Mr. Dixon stated they have Cities doing stuff now.

Commissioner Holt stated did 10-million-dollar bond for Roads. Commissioner Simpkins asked if they were to get a Bond, would they be able to use that towards the new bond. Ms. Daniels stated they could pledge the revenue to pay the debt service.

Commissioner Hinson stated once they start building infrastructure, they need to start looking into moving a prison near Liberty County, not as many people there.

Commissioner Hinson mentioned engineering firms and them raising money.

Mr. Dixon stated they were still running behind money from the last firm.

Commissioner Hinson asked about refurbishing of the buildings.

Commissioner Green stepped out at 4:03 pm

Commissioner Green returned at 4:06 pm

Mr. Dixon stated the County generally gave people 0 -100 dollar a month lease in exchange that they will maintain all facilities.

Commissioner Hinson asked what if the whole AC unit was broken. Do they take care of that responsibility?

Commissioner Holt mentioned about St. Johns not being on the packet. She stated they were supposed to get a list of parks and what is needed. Ms. Daniels stated she knew some bathrooms needed attention. Commissioner Holt stated St Johns did not need a bathroom?

Commissioner Holt stated they have \$25,000 for community cameras. She stated she thinks they will need more.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 4:23 pm

Commissioner Hinson stated he was embarrassed of the condition of the park. He noticed holes in the restrooms and spider webs. They need to look at all parks. Parks are about quality of life.

Commissioner Holt returned at 4:25 pm

Commissioner Hinson stated they need to bold enough to take care of all parks.

Chair NeSmith told the County Administrator to get with the School Board to work on lights.

Questions/ Answers

MOTION TO ADJOURN

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH DECLARED
THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED AT 5:02 P.M.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A MEETING OF THE PLANNING
COMMISSION HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FL ON AUGUST
10, 2023 AT 6:00 P.M., THE
FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS
HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Lori Bouie, Vice-Chair, District 5
Eugene Sherman III, District 1
John Youman, District 2
Mark Moore, District 3
Wayne Williams, District 3
Charles Roberts, District 4
Tracey Stallworth

Staff Present: Ellen Andrews, Senior Planner
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Adriana Quijada, Clerk Secretary to the Boards

Call To Order, Invocation, and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Bouie called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Commissioner Sherman provided Invocation and led into the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

Introduction of Members – Roll Call

No roll call done.

Amendments and Approval of Agenda

No minutes signed.

Citizens Requesting to be Heard on Non-Agenda Items (3-minute limit)

The Gadsden County Planning Board welcomes and encourages public participation at all meetings of the Board. Citizens are free to speak for up to three (3) minutes on non-agenda items. Public comments and participation are also encouraged for items on the agenda. Additionally, if you are unable to attend a meeting in person, comments from the Public can also be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until noon on the date of the meeting. Comments submitted after the deadline, but prior to the meeting, will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting. Citizens are further encouraged to participate via Zoom using the credentials on the County's website. The Board's meetings are also broadcast live on the Board's Facebook page.

Chair Bouie read aloud the above statement.

Public Hearings

- 1. Dupont Road Well Improvements Special Exception Use (SEU 2023-01) (Quasi-Judicial) – Consideration of a Special Exception Use to allow construction of a new potable water well to service the Gadsden Regional Water System on a 26.04-acre parcel and a 31.45-acre**

parcel located south of Lett Lane and west of Dupont Road (Parcel ID 4-04-1N-2W-0000-00340-0000, 4-04-1N-2W-0000-00441-0000). The parcels are located in an agricultural land use (Agriculture-3) which allows for construction of essential utility services with approval of a Special Exception Use.

Mr. Stiell presented the above item.

Mr. Stiell stated the 2 parcels on which the project will be located are designated as Agriculture 3 on the GC FLUM. Essential utilities are permitted in Agriculture 3 with approval as a special exception use and a Type II site plan.

Commissioner Roberts stated he went out there with binoculars. He mentioned a pond on private property and asked what would happen to them. Mr. Stiell stated the State would monitor the area.

Commissioner Stallworth asked if they had any data from the time the test well was installed until now. Mr. Stiell stated they did not have that data.

Commissioner Roberts asked what year was the test well put in. Mr. Stiell stated 2008.

Commissioner Roberts asked did they know how many homes were there from then and now? Mr. Stiell stated they did not have that data from 2008.

Chair Bouie stated her concern was that the Variance was in place to protect source of water drawn from well. Mr. Stiell stated the State gave exceptions to what could go in that protection.

Chair Bouie stated the area does not have central sewage.

Commissioner Moore stated for residential use, wells have to be 100 feet from sewer system. He asked how many casings were in this well and how far down it goes.

Attorney Knowles stated they have three separate items tonight.

Woods Waddle, Applicant's agent, appeared before the Board.

Commissioner Roberts asked if there's been any current study. He also asked about the effect on neighbors. Mr. Waddle stated it shouldn't affect any residential wells.

Commissioner Youman asked if they were doing it for more capacity of water? Mr. Waddle stated yes.

Commissioner Moore wanted to be clear about just putting a well on the property.

Commissioner Sherman asked about technicians going out to the property.

Commissioner Moore asked how many days a month someone would be out there. Mr. Waddle stated about once a month.

Gadsden County Planning Commission
August 10, 2023 - Regular Meeting

Michael Smith appeared before the Board. He asked if the environmental impact study has been done. He also asked why residents were not made aware of this project. He asked where was the water being pumped to.

Ronald Warner appeared before the Board. He wanted assurance that their wells would be protected.

Tom LaDuke appeared before the Board to discuss his concerns with the well. He wanted to make sure he was not affected.

Susan Cabe appeared before the Board. She was concerned about traffic but she stated it did not seem like it would be a problem after hearing everyone speak.

Mr. LaDuke appeared before the Board again. He stated 60% of the project has already been done.

Mr. Waddle appeared before the Board. He stated they have permitted this through the Department of Environmental Protection.

Commissioner Moore stated he was concerned about the well running dry.

Chair Bouie asked for a motion.

Moore made a motion for special exception use suggested option 1.

COMMISSIONER MOORE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION ONE, RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE DUPONT ROAD WELL IMPROVEMENT, AND COMMISSIONER SHERMAN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM AND PASSED 7-0.

2. Dupont Road Well Improvements Variance (V 2023-01) (Quasi-Judicial) – Consideration of a variance request and order to allow a reduction in the required setback from 700’ to 195’ from the northern property line for a potable water well field for a new potable water well to be located on a 26.04-acre parcel and a 31.45-acre parcel located south of Lett Lane and west of Dupont Road (Parcel ID 4-04-1N-2W-0000-00340-0000, 4-04-1N-2W-0000-00441-0000).

Mr. Stiell presented item number 2.

Commissioner Moore stated he would love to know if there was anything being done to make sure the well was protected.

Mr. Waddle stated they have looked at all locations on site to see if there was anywhere they could put a well that did not require a Variance.

Chair Bouie stated she was not opposed to the well, but would like to have things in place to protect neighbors and future concerns.

Mr. Stiell stated that may be an issue under the site plan review. This was just for the variance.

Commissioner Stallworth stated his concern was the farm that LaDuke has. He wanted to know why the neighbors did not receive a letter.

Susan Vause appeared before the Board. Her concern was that they were right adjacent of where they were putting this well.

Chair Bouie asked Mr. Stiell if there was a negative impact on the citizens who were adjacent.

Chair asked the Commission how they would like to move forward.

COMMISSIONER SHERMAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION ONE, RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE DUPONT ROAD WELL IMPROVEMENT VARIANCE REQUEST, AND COMMISSIONER STALLWORTH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM AND PASSED 6-1. COMMISSIONER MOORE OPPOSED.

3. Dupont Road Well Improvements Conceptual/Preliminary Site Plan (SP 2023-02) (Quasi-Judicial) – Consideration of a conceptual/preliminary site plan to construct a new potable water well to service the Gadsden Regional Water System on a 26.04-acre parcel and a 31.45-acre parcel located south of Lett Lane and west of Dupont Road (Parcel ID 4-04-1N-2W-0000-00340-0000, 4-04-1N-2W-0000-00441-0000).

Mr. Stiell presented the above item.

Chair Bouie stated she was concerned that they did not have the representative present to answer questions. Mr. Stiell stated the code allowed for representatives from engineering firm to represent the company.

Chair Bouie stated her concern was that Talquin was not able to answer her concerns she had about the neighbors. Chair Bouie asked if there was a way for the generator to be enclosed? Mr. Waddle stated they do have an enclosure.

Chair Bouie asked if there is a flush system with boundaries that would control flushing waters in addition to the storm water system, would there be an actual plan direction for the flush water to go to. Mr. Waddle stated he could not really answer that. Chair Bouie stated that would be a question for Talquin.

Chair Bouie asked Mr. Stiell if they were able to recommend a directed flush system. Attorney Knowles reminded them of the policies with Quasi-Judicial.

Commissioner Stallworth stated he would like for the main engineer to be here to answer all questions they have.

Commissioner Roberts that amount of water would have an effect on people. Asked where did the water lead

Chair Bouie stated she was going to ask them to provide free connection to the immediate neighbors.

Chair Bouie stated it would give a positive to neighbors since the property insurance would go down. But she still had concerns about the flush water system.

Commissioner Moore asked if they deny this tonight, would it come back before them again. Mr. Stiell stated they would have to give a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners.

Chair Bouie stated Talquin could provide answers for the direction of the flush water system

Chair Bouie mentioned about having a hydraulic study. Mr. Stiell stated yes, they could ask for that study.

VICE-CHAIR BOUIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION ONE, UNDER THE CONDITION THAT PRIOR TO APPROVAL, SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE THAT ANY FLUSHING WOULD NOT HAVE ANY IMPACT ON NEIGHBORING PROPERTIES AND THAT THERE WOULD BE BOUNDARIES AND MITIGATION DIRECTED TO STANDARD AREA FOR THE FLUSHING SYSTEM AND A HYDRAULIC STUDY WILL BE DONE. COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM AND FAILED TO PASS 2-5. COMMISSIONER STALLWORTH, COMMISSIONER YOUAMAN, COMMISSIONER ROBERTS, COMMISSIONER MOORE, AND COMMISSIONER SHERMAN OPPOSED.

COMMISSIONER MOORE MADE A MOTION TO DENY DUE TO FLUSH WATER MANAGEMENT AND ADDRESS THE SCIENTIFIC REASONS WHY THE WELL WOULD NOT AFFECT NEIGHBORS WITH A STRONG RECOMMENDATION TO THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS THAT THEY LOOK DEEPLY INTO THESE THINGS THEY WERE CONCERNED ABOUT. COMMISSIONER ROBERTS MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM AND PASSED 5-2. CHAIR BOUIE AND COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS OPPOSED.

Commissioner Sherman amended Commissioner Moore's motion to deny due to lack of info that include concerns related to the public.

Commissioner Roberts mentioned about having the technology to be able to pull up the location on the tv's in the Board room for them to be able to see what they are talking about. Mr. Stiell stated he would have to check with the IT department.

General Business

4. Planning Director's Comments
5. Planning Commissioners' Comments

Motion to Adjourn

The next regularly scheduled meeting is SEPTEMBER 14, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR BOUIE ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 9:44 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

Lori Bouie, Chair

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT A WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FL ON AUGUST 15, 2023 AT 4:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

PRESENT: **Eric Hinson, Vice-Chair, District 1**
 Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2
 Brenda Holt, District 4
 Ronterious “Ron” Green, District 5
 Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
 Opal McKinney-Williams, Attorney
 Adriana Quijada, Clerk Secretary to the Boards

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Holt started Workshop at 4:04 pm. Commissioner Holt led into moment of silence and Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS (3-MINUTE LIMIT)

The Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners welcomes and encourages public participation at all meetings of the Board. Citizens are free to speak for up to three (3) minutes on non-agenda items. Public comments and participation are also encouraged for items on the agenda. Additionally, if you are unable to attend a meeting in person, comments from the Public can also be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until noon on the date of the meeting. Comments submitted after the deadline, but prior to the meeting, will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting. Citizens are further encouraged to participate via Zoom using the credentials on the County’s website. The Board’s meetings are also broadcast live on the Board’s Facebook page. Commissioner Simpkins read aloud the above statement.

Commissioner Hinson appeared at 4:06 pm.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Introduction (Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator)

Mr. Dixon stated they have heard their comments regarding ARPA and the funding that they have. He stated they have put those requests into some financial order to meet their concerns on infrastructure and their desire to fund infrastructure into the future. He stated they have included every number of financial capabilities that they thought they could. He stated Ms. Burgess would walk through it with them.

2. **American Rescue Plan (ARPA) Remaining Funds** (Jenifer Burgess, Budget Manager / Georgette Daniels, County Administrator)
 - FY 2023-24
 - FY 2024-25
 - FY 2025-26

Ms. Burgess appeared before the Board. She stated they took the comments from the last ARPA workshop and tried to re-work numbers. One of the changes they made was that they removed the recommendation to use the \$475,000 from ARPA for Elderly Affairs and they were now recommending to use the half cent sales tax, it was a recurring funding source. Another recommendation they removed was that they previously had \$200,000 in grant matching funds and they removed it; instead of using a grant to match other grants, they could use other funding sources for grant funds. She stated they previously had a Community Business Lighting Feasibility study, but some of what the Commissioners mentioned was that they did not have any funds for the actual lighting. So, they included \$150,000 towards a Light Pilot program. In addition, they increased the amount for Parks Upgrade and Expansion from \$180,000 to \$350,000. Ms. Burgess stated they were also recommending Infrastructure Feasibility study for \$130,000. They are recommending \$225,000 to be used for economic development. Another change they did compared to the last ARPA workshop was they added an additional \$100,000 for the Simon Scott (Elderly Affairs) building expansion. So, now instead of \$100,000, they were recommending \$200,000. She stated in total, what they were recommending for the fiscal year 2023-2024 was to allocate \$2,230,000 from the ARPA Funds. For fiscal year 2024-2025, they also removed the \$475,000 that they previously recommended for Elderly Affairs. She stated for Parks Upgrade and Expansion there was an increase to \$400,000 for fiscal year 2024-2025. They added additional funds for lighting in the amount of \$100,000. She stated the total funding allocation they were recommending was \$1,135,000. Ms. Burgess stated for the fiscal year 2025-2026, they were recommending the remaining allocation with the ARPA Funds which is \$104,048.99 to be used for Parks Upgrade and Expansion. She stated these were all suggestions and the Board would give the direction.

Commissioner Hinson asked what was the costs to implement lighting now? Mr. Dixon stated the \$100,000 was a guesstimate for the lighting. They need to have that feasibility study. Commissioner Green wanted to know if they could utilize some of the \$150,000 for fire services. He stated he would love to know how many volunteer firefighters they have to see if they could budget in some type of

stipend for them for their services. He stated they should have some type of luncheon or something to that effect to show their appreciation for those volunteers. He wanted the Commissioners and County Administrator to ponder on this and give some thoughts. Mr. Dixon stated the Chiefs are looking at a stipend and some kind of bonus for the volunteer firefighters.

Commissioner Hinson asked about fire hydrants. Mr. Dixon stated Talquin owned most of the lines. He stated most of the lines are 4 inches, and they need to be 6 inches to support a hydrant. Talquin would not invest on their own so it would be the County and/or the City. Commissioner Hinson asked if they could get the cost on that.

Commissioner Green asked if there were any particular areas they were already considering for the feasibility study. Mr. Dixon stated they wanted to sit down with the City because they have projects at certain degrees. He stated the City of Quincy projects require a new water tower.

Commissioner Holt stated Commissioner Hinson brought up a good point in the last meeting on bonding money. She stated everyone has to meet first before they know what to bond for in economic development. She stated she looks at manufacturing because it paid better and it causes them to hire more people.

Commissioner Hinson asked how much did it cost for solar lights. Commissioner Simpkins stated she reached out to a couple of solar companies. She stated the price range would be around \$4,000 to \$12,000, depending on the type and the range.

Commissioner Hinson stated they needed to be aggressive on fire hydrants. Dixon stated the Chief informed him they already met with Talquin and they would get back to them on it. Commissioner Holt stated they had discussed before about possibly putting in a tank in some of the outlined areas.

Commissioner Hinson asked if they have started using the \$300,000 for the emergency housing. Mr. Dixon stated yes. Commissioner Green stated it was from his understanding that someone from the Housing department would be at the 6 o'clock meeting tonight. He stated he spoke to Ms. Sonya as it related to some of the funding.

Commissioner Green asked if they all had an opportunity to meet with the Finance Director or Ms. Burgess or Ms. Daniels. Commissioner Simpkins stated she met with Ms. Burgess as it related to the ARPA.

Ms. Burgess mentioned the Half Cent Sales Tax. She stated one of the things they included was an estimate of \$800,00 for the Debt Service Bond Payment for Infrastructure. She stated she was aware that infrastructure was a priority to the Commissioners and they considered potentially some kind of bond. The next recommendation they had was to use some of it for Elderly Affairs so they put \$500,000 and that would be until Elderly Affairs could be able to sustain themselves fully. She stated they were recommending \$250,000 for the Boys and Girls Club Operation. She stated this was just a recommendation that they put together for the Commissioners to discuss and provide direction. They were also recommending \$450,000 for Economic Development.

Commissioner Green mentioned Boys and Girls Club. He had concerns over the operation of this club and what they were bringing to the table. Mr. Dixon stated the money they have in Parks was for building parks. It is not for the operation of community centers.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if there were any additional funding, other than what they have in their budget, to go towards fire services. Ms. Daniels stated they were putting up to \$150,000 of the ARPA funding for services. She stated fire has their own budget. Commissioner Simpkins asked if they increased this year in their fire budget. Mr. Dixon stated they want to do the fire assessment and figure out what it was that they needed and to also have a recurring source of money to put into it. Commissioner Simpkins stated if they could try to figure out how they could maneuver some of the \$2 million to allocate towards fire services. Mr. Dixon stated to give them until after the bonds service meeting.

Commissioner Hinson stated 100% of the Half Cent Sales Tax should go to infrastructure.

Commissioner Green asked about issues about Quincy fire contract. Mr. Dixon stated the City had requested a meeting with them on fire and a number of subjects. Mr. Dixon stated the \$800,000 would hopefully give the County \$15 million dollars to invest in infrastructure. The \$450,000 was just

money to be piled up by the Economic Development Director. Commissioner Hinson stated if they put \$30-40 million dollars towards infrastructure, it would sell itself.

Commissioner Green stated they were all in favor of having a meeting with the City so they could come to some type of conclusion as it related to fire services. He stated they needed a workshop soon for fire services.

Commissioner Holt stated they need some type of data so they know what they are putting their money in. Commissioner Green stated there should be an ongoing workshop on a quarterly basis with fire services and EMS.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned bonds and asked Commissioner Hinson if he was saying to take that entire \$2million dollars to put into bond. Commissioner Hinson stated once they start building, the people would come. He stated they could start with \$2 million and go down. They need to find the number they were looking for.

Commissioner Hinson stated they need to address immediate needs now. He stated they needed to focus on infrastructure of the Fire Department first.

Commissioner Simpkins stepped out at 5:07 pm.

3. Questions/Answers

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, VICE-CHAIR HINSON DECLARED THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED AT 5:10 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

KIMBLIN NESMITH, 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 AUGUST 15, 2023 AT 6:00 P.M., THE
FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD,
VIZ:**

PRESENT: **Kimblin E. NeSmith, Chair, District 3**
 Eric F. Hinson, Vice-Chair, District 1
 Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2
 Brenda A. Holt, District 4
 Ronterious "Ron" Green, District 5
 Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
 Opal McKinney-Williams, Attorney
 Adriana Quijada, Clerk Secretary to the Boards

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Hinson called the meeting to order at 6 pm. Commissioner Green provided invocation. Commissioner Hinson led into the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

Amendments and Approval of Agenda

Mr. Dixon stated they had 4 amendments to the agenda. Item 1A: Presentation by Conexon, Item 8A: Approval of FL Department of Law Enforcement Salary Assistance Grant for Fiscally Constrained Counties Grant, Item 8B: Approval of Letter of Intent to Renew the Employee Agreement for the Gadsden County Administrator, and Item 8C: Approval of South Adams Street Sidewalk Supplemental Agreement.

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

Awards, Presentations, and Appearances

1. Recognition of Alma Littles, M.D.
(Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners)

Commissioner Green provided Recognition of Honor to Ms. Alma Littles.

1A. Conexon Presentation

Leslye Krampe appeared before the Board. She provided a presentation on Conexon.

CONSENT

Chair NeSmith stated he had been with Legal Counsel today regarding some matters and asked Attorney McKinney-Williams if he could make an amendment to the agenda so they could bring those items forward. Attorney McKinney-Williams stated yes. Chair stated he would like to add it as item 7 and move the current Item 7 to Item 7A. Chair NeSmith called for a motion to bring forth a presentation from Legal Counsel.

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

Chair NeSmith called for motion for the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Hinson asked to pull Item 3 for discussion.

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

2. Approval of Agreement with Sonitrol to upgrade the User Access to the Edward J. Butler Building

(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator / Allan Meeks, Facilities Director)

3. Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Liens and Rehabilitation Contracts - State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) and Gadsden Emergency Repair Program (ER)

(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator /Sonya D. Burns, SHIP Housing Coordinator)

4. Approval of Service Agreement to allow Johnson Controls to provide annual inspections for Fire Alarm Essential Services at the Gadsden County Jail

(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator / Allan Meeks, Facilities Director)

5. Approval of the Gadsden County Behavioral Health Transportation Plan

(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator /Colonel Bobby Collins, GCSO)

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

Commissioner Hinson pulled item 3 for discussion.

Mr. Dixon stated for them to bring that item back on the next meeting. He stated they will still discuss and approve this item today but to not consider L. Jackson and it would come back to them at a different time. Mr. Dixon explained Item 3. Commissioner Hinson stated his heartburn was that it was catered to one district. Commissioner Green stated he was hoping that the Housing Director would be here this evening. He stated there was a couple applications submitted from his district. He stated the Housing Director was supposed to give a report on the applications submitted. Commissioner Green asked Mr. Dixon if he had any knowledge on the applications submitted. Mr. Dixon stated they have

received 40-50 applications in the last few weeks. Commissioner Green asked if they know the amount of money in their budget still and if there was a deadline. Mr. Dixon stated there is no deadline. Green stated need to find a way to amend this.

Commissioner Simpkins stated they should be able to set the requirements for those funds. She stated she would like to see the numbers and the breakdown as it related to how many citizens have been served in each district. She wanted to make sure that if a citizen had been called and they missed a call, that they do not just pass by them.

Commissioner Hinson asked why would they put those restrictions on their citizens who need help. He stated the money should be divided into a fifth, that way everybody could be represented in the County. Commissioner Holt stated if they want to change the application process, they make policy. Commissioner Hinson stated each Commissioner could get \$100,000 that would go directly into their community. Commissioner Simpkins stated for them to hold the \$150,000 until they establish guidelines.

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

Citizens Requesting to be Heard on Non-Agenda Items (3-minute limit)

The Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners welcomes and encourages public participation at all meetings of the Board. Citizens are free to speak for up to three (3) minutes on non-agenda items. Public comments and participation are also encouraged for items on the agenda. Additionally, if you are unable to attend a meeting in person, comments from the Public can also be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until noon on the date of the meeting. Comments submitted after the deadline, but prior to the meeting, will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting. Citizens are further encouraged to participate via Zoom using the credentials on the County's website. The Board's meetings are also broadcast live on the Board's Facebook page. Mr. Dixon read aloud the above statement.

Janet Watson, 2793 Sycamore Rd

Janet Watson stated will give her three minutes to her husband, Mike Watson.

Mike Watson, 2793 Sycamore Rd

Mr. Watson appeared before the Board. He was there to discuss Sycamore Rd.

Commissioner Green returned at 7:11 pm

Commissioner Simpkins stepped out at 7:13 pm

Commissioner Simpkins returned at 7:14 pm

PUBLIC HEARINGS

6. Public Hearing: Willscot Hammock Creek Conceptual/Preliminary Site Plan (SP 2023-01)

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. He stated they have Ms. Ellen present who will be presenting on behalf of Mr. Stiell.

Ellen Andrews read through item 6. She stated this item was presented to the Board for consideration of a request for approval for Conceptual/ Preliminary Site Plan for Willscot Hammock Creek SP 2023-01.

Carmen Greene appeared before the Board to discuss the above item. Commissioner Holt asked how long were the trucks that were going to be coming out of there. Ms. Greene stated they will have 10 large trucks exiting each day. Commissioner Holt mentioned turning lanes. Ms. Greene stated the turn lanes that were mentioned in the original traffic study do appear to have been put in. Commissioner Holt asked about pollution. Ms. Greene stated it would be taken care of by storm water ponds. Commissioner Holt asked if there were any concerns for the applicant about any of the recommendations from Planning and Zoning. Ms. Greene stated no, they had some minor things that they would discuss with Ms. Ellen. Commissioner Holt verified with Mr. Dixon that they would get a report on that.

Commissioner Hinson stated normally, when they have this public hearing meeting, they have a statement from the Planning and Zoning. Ms. Andrews mentioned page 8 and 9.

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

GENERAL BUSINESS

7. Presentation for Figgers Communication – Settlement Discussion

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. Chair NeSmith stated they have a presentation from their Legal Counsel regarding matters that took place today.

Attorney Zach appeared before the Board to discuss the settlement of the case between Figgers Communication and the Board. He stated they held a mediation today at the order of the court. He stated the mediation was a confidential proceeding. They did have the opportunity to present them with the result of the mediation. He stated they agreed on a resolution of \$390,000 which would entirely resolve the case. Attorney Zach recommended to the Board that they accept \$390,000 to resolve the matter.

Commissioner Green asked about the attorney fees. Attorney Zach stated the settlement amount was a global settlement, meaning that at the conclusion of the amount, there would be no payment for attorney's fees to them moving forward.

Commissioner Holt told Attorney Zach to explain number 3 on the mediation agreement, Plaintiff shall dismiss this action with prejudice. Attorney Zach stated the dismissal of prejudice means that following the payment of the settlement amount, the Plaintiff would dismiss the lawsuit and prejudice means they could never bring it again. It would end the lawsuit forever.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1, APPROVE THE SETTLEMENT, AND CHAIR NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS SETTLEMENT AMOUNT. COMMISSIONER HOLT OPPOSED.

7A. Approval to Award contract for Bid No. 23-03 Library Technical Services Support

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. This agenda item seeks Board approval to award Bid No. 23-03 to Mr. Paul Clark, MLS in the amount of \$48 per hour at 15 hours a month.

Chair NeSmith stepped out at 7:55 p.m.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

8. Approval of Agreement with Calvin, Giordano and Associates, Inc. (CGA) to purchase Gov-Easy Code Enforcement Software

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. This agenda item seeks approval of services agreement between Calvin, Giordano, and Associates, Inc. and Gadsden County to purchase Gov-Easy Code Enforcement Software.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

8A. Approval of Florida Department of Law Enforcement Salary Assistance Grant for Fiscally Constrained Counties Grant

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. This agenda item seeks approval of Florida Department of Law Enforcement Salary Assistance Grant for fiscally constrained counties.

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

8B. Approval of the Letter of Intent to Renew the Employee Agreement for the Gadsden County Administrator

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item.

Attorney McKinney-Williams stated on August 8th, the Board directed the County Attorney to prepare an agenda item. This item does is for intent to renew the agreement.

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

Chair NeSmith returned at 7:58 pm.

8C. Approval of South Adams Street Sidewalk Agreement

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item.

Commissioner Hinson asked Mr. Dixon to expand on this item. Mr. Dixon stated this was a sidewalk that runs from MLK to Clark Street and down Adams Street. There would be a new sidewalk all the way up to MLK in the amount of \$630,000.

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

Clerk of Court

9. Updates

(Nicholas Thomas, Clerk)

County Administrator

10. Updates

Mr. Dixon stated they had a grand opening ceremony in Chattahoochee. He stated in the next few days they will be receiving documentation from him for their input.

Commissioner Hinson asked about a report for Neighborhood Health. Mr. Dixon stated the Attorney was reaching out to the managers at Neighborhood Health.

County Attorney

11. Updates

Discussion Items by Commissioners

Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2

Commissioner Simpkins asked if they had a timeline on when the salary study will be completed for the other employees. Mr. Dixon stated they were about 3 weeks in and they had about 2 more weeks of work. Commissioner Simpkins mentioned the FRDAP Grant deadline was August 31. She asked if

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
August 15, 2023 - Regular Meeting

they have put in applications for that. Ms. Daniels stated they have no applications right now. She stated they just got awarded a recent one, Saint Johns for \$50,000. Commissioner Simpkins stated she would be very upset if they did not get an application in by August 31 for a FRDAP Grant. She asked if they have closed the ones that needed to be closed so that they would qualify to apply for two. Mr. Dixon stated they have closed all their Grants. He stated they have one awarded so they were only qualified for one grant. Commissioner Simpkins stated that was awarded in the last fiscal year. So, they qualify for two. Allen Meeks appeared before the Board and stated that was correct. He stated the last two have been reimbursed. Commissioner Simpkins stated she wanted to make sure that they have a Grant proposal in by August 31. Mr. Dixon stated it was not a problem applying for two \$50,000 Grants. He stated they wanted to apply for one of the larger Grants.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned Attapulgus Highway and asked what was the update. Curtis Young appeared before the Board and stated they submitted paperwork back to FDOT. He stated they would not be doing the entire road.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned Ordinance as it relates to contracts. Commissioner Simpkins stated they need to make sure they are letting their constituents know exactly how the 77 million dollars were appropriated. She stated for them to put a layout on their website showing where the 77 million dollars are being allocated. Commissioner Simpkins mentioned a Town Hall Meeting with Senator Simon and Representative Franklin on August 24 at 6 p.m. at the Simon Scott Senior Citizen Center.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned that on August 15, it showed they will be having training for the website. She was hoping this will be in full operation the next time they meet. Commissioner Simpkins asked how to have forms uploaded that way their citizens could fill out forms that way.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she had requested signs some months back for the Dogtown area. She asked where they were with those yard signs and if she could get them for that area. Ms. Steele stated that Chief Hood informed that they did not have the funds for those signs.

Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt mentioned the Gadsden County Treasure Hunt that she is a member of. She stated they will be having an event April of next year. She stated they were looking for all kinds of items like scrub boards, wash pots, etc.

Commissioner Holt stated she liked the priority projects. She stated they should have a section on the website for projects.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5

Commissioner Green wanted to make a motion for retired Pastor Sterling Barkley Sr.

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

Commissioner Green asked for a motion for retired Commissioner Clarence Bryant Sr.

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

Commissioner Green wanted to make a proclamation for Event Community Promoter Chris Holt.

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

Commissioner Green mentioned an issue with internal homelessness. He stated a lot of people are having to stay with other people. He mentioned maybe having some type of emergency housing program to assist people. He stated they need some type of dialogue on how they could get some funding.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
August 15, 2023 - Regular Meeting

Commissioner Green asked what process did they have in place as it related to the maintenance of the ditches and drainage. Curtis Young appeared before the Board and stated in regards to the drainage issue, they normally send the maintenance crews around. Commissioner Green stated some of the drainages have not been attended to in a very long time.

Commissioner Green mentioned Ordinance as it related to how many houses you could put here, what you can do with that, etc. and stated it was time to pull those forward to have those discussions because he has been getting about 4 or 5 different situations where people are being told no based upon what they have in place.

Commissioner Green stated they have a major wild pig situation in this County. He stated it was becoming horrifying to residents and they were afraid to go outside. He stated there were traps set up and about 18 pigs were captured. He wanted an update on how they were trying to resolve this. Mr. Dixon stated he believed tomorrow they will have a meeting on this. He stated it would require a large effort to get many at a time in large traps. He stated they were looking to work all together. USDA had said that they did not want to deal with any small trappers. Allen Meeks appeared before the Board and stated he wanted to point out that they were considered feral or wild and they were brought in in the 1500s when the Spaniards came over. He stated there were over 30 states having this problem. Commissioner Green asked how did they find where they are. Allen Meeks stated complaints are a good start.

Commissioner Eric F. Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson mentioned fire hydrants. He stated they needed to have a serious meeting about this and look for a solution. Commissioner Hinson mentioned local participation and stated they needed to get more women and minorities involved.

Commissioner Hinson mentioned AC unit for citizens and stated it needed to be replaced. He stated it read repairs and maintenance, but not replacements. He stated they needed to think about this because those are their citizens. He stated they needed to consider paying for that AC unit since it is theirs.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
August 15, 2023 - Regular Meeting

Commissioner Hinson mentioned Community Resource Fair and they served close to 700 families that were there. He stated they gave thousands of toiletries out. Commissioner Hinson stated they needed a workshop on Fire Department and local participation.

Commissioner Hinson wanted to make a motion to give the County Administrator permission to purchase an AC unit that goes into their building so the citizens could use the health facility in Havana.

Commissioner Holt stated they needed to go by the contract. She stated the Contract was written the way it was so that the organization could save up the money over the years.

Commissioner Green stated he needed to see some numbers and a little more information on this. He would like an agenda item for this and they needed to have more discussion to know the details.

Chair NeSmith stated he cannot support this due to lack of information. He stated there needed to be a process and more research done.

Commissioner Hinson wanted to withdraw his motion. He stated they have to replace the AC unit in 2 months anyway, so, he would like to find ways to direct the County Administrator to find out the cost for replacing an AC unit.

Commissioner Hinson withdrew his motion from earlier and Commissioner Simpkins withdrew her second. Mr. Dixon stated there were multiple units and issues at play.

Commissioner Hinson made a motion for the Board to give direction to the County Administrator for the cost analysis of an AC unit.

Commissioner Holt stated there should be correspondence from them. She stated she was in favor of doing research. She stated they needed to look at the entire lease agreement.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO HAVE THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR GIVE THEM A COST ANALYSIS FOR AN AC UNIT AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER HOLT AND CHAIR NESMITH OPPOSED.

Chairman Kimblin E. Nesmith, J.D., District 3

Chair NeSmith thanked the Board for allowing today's meeting to happen. He also thanked the Commissioners for attending the North Florida Rural Health groundbreaking today.

Commissioner Hinson mentioned that he will be in Gadsden County's Hall of Fame.

Commissioner Holt stated she wanted to make sure that people realize that just because they were having intense discussions on certain departments did not mean that they were attacking the individuals in that department.

Chair NeSmith wanted to congratulate Chattahoochee Elementary School Principal Floyd. He thanked him for growing that school.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
August 15, 2023 - Regular Meeting

Motion to Adjourn

WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 9:31 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A HOUSING AND BONDS WORKSHOP OF THE
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND
FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON AUGUST 23,
2023 AT 4:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS
HAD, VIZ:**

Present: **Kimblin NeSmith, Chair, District 3**
 Eric Hinson, Vice-Chair, District 1 - Appeared through Zoom
 Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2
 Brenda Holt, District 4 – Arrived late
 Ronterious “Ron” Green, District 5 - Appeared through Zoom
 Georgette Daniels, Assistant County Administrator
 Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
 Adriana Quijada, Secretary to the Boards

Call to Order, Invocation, and Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Simpkins called the workshop to order at 4:03 pm. and asked for a moment of silence and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

Citizens Requesting to be Heard on Non-Agenda Items (3-minute limit)

The Gadsden County Planning Board welcomes and encourages public participation at all meetings of the Board. Citizens are free to speak for up to three (3) minutes on non-agenda items. Public comments and participation are also encouraged for items on the agenda. Additionally, if you are unable to attend a meeting in person, comments from the Public can also be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadسدencountyfl.gov until noon on the date of the meeting. Comments submitted after the deadline, but prior to the meeting, will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting. Citizens are further encouraged to participate via Zoom using the credentials on the County’s website. The Board’s meetings are also broadcast live on the Board’s Facebook page.

Mr. Knowles read aloud the above statement.

General Business

1. **Welcome and Introduction** (Chairman Kimblin E. NeSmith)
2. **Overview** (Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator)

Ms. Daniels provided overview on what they would be discussing and said the Housing Department had put together a presentation as well as their bonding capacity.

3. **Discussion of Emergency Repair Rules and Guidelines** (Sonya Burns, Housing Director)

Sonya Burns, Housing Director, appeared before the Board and explained their mission and different programs offered.

She explained emergency repairs that require immediate attention such as leaking roof, broken windows, pest infestation, plumbing, failing septic systems including drain fields, heating systems, rotten floors, and accessibility modification that allow someone to remain in their home after an

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
August 23, 2023 – Housing and Bonds Workshop

injury or serious illness. She also listed the income eligibility criteria that must be met by the homeowner.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if it could be a household of one and Ms. Burns said yes.

Ms. Burns read through the inspection process and said after the inspection was completed, and assessment of the cost would be determined and repairs would be prioritized with the most substantial repairs completed first. If repairs exceed the maximum amount allowable per unit, the homeowner may have to seek other sources to complete all necessary repairs. This program may be leveraged with the SHIP program; however, homeowners that have received SHIP/CDBG rehab funds within the past five years or not eligible unless extenuating circumstances existed and/or at the discretion of the county administrator. Only contractors approved by the Gadsden County community development and building departments would be eligible to complete the repairs

Ms. Burns and explained what SHIP funds could be used for.

She said the BOCC Maximum Award Amount was \$20,000 and the SHIP maximum award amount was \$80,000, approved by the Local Housing Assistance Plan.

Ms. Burns stated the SHIP/BOCC ER/CDBG program provided all funds in the form of a grant and a not a loan.

The length of the BOCC ER lien is two years and prorated at 50% yearly and regular SHIP rehabilitation program are 5 years and prorated at 20% yearly.

She then explained how to apply for the programs.

She discussed denial letters and said a denial letter may be issued if it was heir property; missing documentation/incomplete Application; the home is beyond repair, a mobile home built before 1994, it was not the primary residence (no homestead), and no response from the applicant after three attempts.

The average costs for a roof (estimated at 1400 squarer feet) was \$11,000 without bad decking, rafters, etc. and \$13,000 to 16,000 with bad decking and/or additional damage.

Standard Window was between \$300.00-\$600.00; different standards applied for replacement and a new window replacement was estimated between \$800.00 - \$1,000.00.

Average septic would figure in additional factors as to where the home was located in the County. Drain field repair would factor in wet, sandy and clay soil. The average cost for a septic permit cost \$6,500.00. A septic lid replacement was \$700, a pump out cost \$375 and must be pumped out before a new lid was installed. She also stated all numbers were estimates.

Commissioner Holt appeared at 4:25 pm

Commissioner Green asked about a warranty for houses that have been refurbished and Ms. Burns stated the County has a one-year warranty.

Commissioner Simpkins asked about advertising and how the citizens were informed.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
August 23, 2023 – Housing and Bonds Workshop

Ms. Burns said they have a waiting list for SHIP, but with Florida Housing, their funding source, they did not have to advertise.

Chair NeSmith appeared at 4:45 pm.

Ms. Daniels stated they could take a look at marketing for all the housing programs and see what could be done additionally that was not being done to get the word out.

Commissioner Holt stated if they are doing marketing for housing, to put it in the budget.

Ms. Daniels stated they would need to look at the housing budget to see what funding might be available as they currently have a balanced budget.

Commissioner Simpkins stated looking at the preliminary budget, they have upped their funding for marketing and advertising.

Commissioner Simpkins stepped out at 5:10 pm.

4. Discussion of Bonds

JoLinda Herring, Attorney from Bryant Miller Olive Law, appeared before the Board to discuss bonds.

Ms. Herring explained municipal bonds and the types of projects, that included roads/street improvements; utility improvements; governmental buildings; Parks and recreation; police/fire stations; parking garages; and municipal complexes.

She explained there were three types of bonds: general obligation bonds; revenue bonds; and conduit bonds.

She discussed the authority of issuing bonds, being the Florida Constitution, Article VII, Section 12; Florida Statutes Chapter 125; and the Federal Tax Law, Section 103, Internal Revenue Code.

She discussed the decision or need to finance/borrow money for “something”, be it a new capital project; refinancing of an existing debt; or grant anticipation note.

The process for issuing a bond is:

- Define the project;
- Assemble the financing team;
- Enact bond Ordinance or adopt a Resolution;
- Negotiate terms, develop commitment letter or term sheet;
- Draft and develop documents, including bond ordinance or resolution and loan agreement;
- Prepare closing documents and opinions;
- Execute loan documents and closing documents; and
- Deliver bonds against payment of proceeds.
-

Financing Team consist of:

- Issuer
- County Attorney

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
August 23, 2023 – Housing and Bonds Workshop

- Company Borrower (if conduit bond)
- Financial Advisor
- Bond Counsel
- Disclosure Counsel
- Underwriter or Bank
- Underwriters Counsel or Bank's Counsel
- Other appropriate parties

Ms. Herring discussed pre-issuance considerations, the principal documents and the post-issuance of the bond.

Chair NeSmith asked if they currently have any bonds and if Ms. Herring worked on those bonds. She stated yes.

Commissioner Holt asked about the interest rate. Ms. Herring said for \$50 Million the interest rate was approximately 5%.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 5:42 pm

Commissioner Simpkins asked what type of bond was the Road and Hospital Bond and Ms. Herring stated both were revenue bonds.

Mr. Knowles asked Ms. Herring to explain the interest rate.

Chair NeSmith verified they currently only have two bonds, the hospital bond and the road improvement bond and he asked when the hospital bond would end. He asked if the hospital bond was different from the indigent care tax and Ms. Daniels explained the indigent surtax was pledged to make the debt service payment on the hospital bond. Chair NeSmith asked how much longer they had on the hospital bond and Ms. Daniels stated a few years more. Ms. Herring stated close to ten years.

Chair NeSmith asked about the Road Improvement Bond and where it came from and Ms. Daniels said gas tax.

Ms. Daniels stated she would find out how much longer they have with Road Bond.

Commissioner Simpkins asked Ms. Daniels about the annual payment on those bonds. Ms. Daniels stated the Hospital Bond was around \$645,000 annually and she could not remember for Road Bond amount.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
August 23, 2023 – Housing and Bonds Workshop

Motion to Adjourn

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH DECLARED
THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED AT 6:02 P.M.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**KIMBLIN NESMITH, 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 SEPTEMBER 5, 2023 AT 6:00
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: **Kimblin NeSmith, Chair, District 3**
 Eric Hinson, Vice-Chair, District 1
 Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2
 Brenda Holt, District 4
 Ronterious “Ron” Green, District 5
 Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
 Opal McKinney-Williams, Assistant County Attorney
 Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

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

Amendments and Approval of Agenda

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

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

Awards, Presentations and Appearances

1. **Recognition of Clarence Bryant**

2. **Recognition of Christopher Holt**

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

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

Commissioner Holt arrived at 6:11 p.m.

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

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

CONSENT

Commissioner Simpkins asked to pull items 7 through 11.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Item pulled for discussion

13b. Approval of Settlement with Figgers Communication Inc.

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

6. Approval of SHIP Annual Report and Certification

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item.

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

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

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item.

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

11. Approval of Value Adjustment Board Members

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

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

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

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

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

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

13a. Approval of Health Insurance Rate Increase and payment

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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Mr. Dixon read the above statement aloud.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cathy Farr, 564 Middle Creek Road, Mil Rate Increase

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Chair NeSmith said a workshop would be held.

Mike Watson, 2793 Sycamore Road, Quincy – Sycamore Road

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

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS

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

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

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

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

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

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

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 7:49 pm.

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

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

Commissioner Holt returned at 7:52 pm

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dr. Tracy Stallworth appeared before the Board.

Commissioner Green stepped out at 8:29 pm

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

Commissioner Green returned at 8:31 pm

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

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

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

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

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

Commissioner Holt thanked everyone for coming out.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Commissioner Green stepped out at 8:55 pm.

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

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

Commissioner Green returned at 8:56 pm.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Commissioner Simpkins asked for a workshop prior to September 12th.

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

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

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

Chair NeSmith asked the pleasure of the Board.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GENERAL BUSINESS

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

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

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

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

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

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

18. Approval of Bridge Renaming Policy

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

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

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

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

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

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

CLERK OF COURT

19. Updates

The Deputy Clerk said there was nothing to report.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

20. Updates

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

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

COUNTY ATTORNEY

21. Updates

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

22. Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

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

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

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

She added they did good in discussing the ordinances tonight.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 10:37 pm

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

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

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

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

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

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

Commissioner Simpkins stepped out at 10:42 pm.

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

Commissioner Simpkins returned at 10:45 pm.

Commissioner Eric Hinson, Vice-Chair, District 1

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

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

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

He also thanked FAMU and FSU for their win.

Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, Chair, District 3

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

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

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

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

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

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

MOTION TO ADJOURN

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

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

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL
WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND THE
CITY OF QUINCY HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON
SEPTEMBER 6, 2023 AT 4:00 PM, THE
FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD,
VIZ:**

Present: Kimblin NeSmith, Chair, District 3
Eric Hinson, Vice-Chair, District 1
Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2
Ronterious "Ron" Green, District 5
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Sean Pittman, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk
Frida Bass-Prieto, Mayor
Dr. Beverly Nash, District 5
Rob Nixon, City Manager
Gary Roberts, City Attorney
Janice Shackelford Clemons, City Clerk

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair NeSmith called the Workshop to order at 4:12 p.m.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Opening Remarks

(Chair NeSmith, Mayor Frieda Bass- Prieto)

Chair NeSmith introduced the Commissioners. Mayor Bass-Prieto introduced Dr. Nash, Mr. Nixon and Mr. Roberts. Mr. Dixon introduced his staff: Ms. Daniels, Mr. Stiell, Chief Hood, Laurel Bradley. City Manager, Robert Nixon, introduced his staff.

2. Future of Fire Services

(County Administrator, Kris Hood EMS Director)

Chief Hood gave a presentation on the future of fire services. He stated the current factors affecting Fire Departments are:

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
September 6, 2023 – Workshop

- Money and Manpower
- Limited number of certified volunteers
- Training
- Water Sources
- 911 Dispatch
- Station conditions/ locations
- Multiple departments potentially working against one another.
- No unity when it comes to equipment and not being interchangeable. (Example: air packs/bottles, extrication equipment, etc.)

Chief Hood mentioned ways to improve fire coverage:

Step 1

- Identify which Cities would like to participate in the fire assessment
- Once identified, these cities along with Gadsden County will be included in the fire assessment.
- For the best outcome, it is recommended that the Cities located within Gadsden County participate in the fire assessment.

Chief Hood explained what this would do for the entire County:

Step 2

- Identifies and develops unique funding and service delivery for fire services.
- Provides a consulting group to identify the County's strength and weaknesses.
- Provide a complete program that will fully satisfy the entire County's fire services requirements.
- Identify a continuous funding source for fire coverage throughout the entire County.

Chief Hood mentioned Scope of Service:

- Legal Review
- Service Demand (call volume)
- Assessment roll

- Assessable Cost
- Assessment Methodology
- Reports & Presentations

Chief Hood showed a map of where the Fire Departments are.

Commissioner Simpkins arrived at 4:46 p.m.

Mr. Dixon stated they were trying to look at this holistically. They are looking to improve fire services across the County in the future.

Commissioner Green asked who gives authority for each municipality to participate in the assessment. Commissioner Green stated they need to think of ways they could be creative as it related to volunteers.

Dr. Nash asked which fire stations are volunteer. Chief Hood stated all of them except the City of Quincy. She stated, in doing the fire assessment, they need to identify what level, either Community or City. Dr. Nash stated they need to identify a mission or vision statement.

Chair NeSmith asked the County Administrator if they already have a fire assessment tool. Mr. Dixon stated no they do not. He stated they need to do an RFP first.

Mayor Brass-Prieto stated she thought they were there to discuss fire contract. She stated when she looked at the agenda, she did not see the main reason for the meeting. She came to the meeting because of funding issues.

Mr. Nixon stated they still had questions about what to do with fire protection now. He stated he wanted to hear from the Fire Chief where they were in the consideration for discussing the fire contract.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she was not aware of discussing the fire contract. She stated she is aware that there are issues that need to be discussed as it relates to fire services for the County and the City.

Chief Baker provided some details of the City of Quincy Fire.

Commissioner Green asked if he could get in writing the numbers given by Chief Baker.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if they needed to bring municipalities to the table as it relates to contract.

Mayor Bass-Prieto stated the City of Quincy spends more time in the county than in the city.

Commissioner Hinson stated it was not fair to the County Commissioners. They need to postpone this meeting to have one voice and one sound.

Mayor Bass-Prieto asked about the contract being presented to the Board. Mr. Dixon stated it was.

Commissioner Simpkins stated they understand the cost as relate to fire services. She stated they were sitting there blind. They need to have a conversation and look at where they are.

Commissioner Green stated he did not know what they were coming for today. He stated he did get the agenda but did not know what the expectations were. He stated they need to prepare for things on the agenda.

Commissioner Green stepped out at 5:07 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson stated he wanted to be prepared in advance.

3. Economic Development

(County Administrator, T.J. Lewis Economic Development Director)

- **Process**
- **Strategy**

T.J. Lewis appeared to provide presentation on Economic Development.

Mr. Lewis talked about the process and strategies they were working on.

PROCESS

Clarifying policies and rules for the proactive engagement of local government, growth management / planning professionals and local stakeholders in the process of business engagement and site readiness activities.

No-wrong-door approach to engagement with local government.

Dedicated economic development operations to allow county to be quicker to respond and more competitive with job-development opportunities.

STRATEGIES

Using public investment to entice a multiplier factor private investment (2x, 6x, 10x etc.)

Development of county-wide strategic plan for economic growth.

Encouraging and prioritizing higher quality land-use practices.

Employ state-of-the-art technologies and public-facing platforms to allow 24/7 service to business community.

Mr. Lewis went through the Proposed Project Approval Process Flow:

Gadsden County Economic Development:

Originates, analyzes, and performs due-diligence for competitive projects and economic development initiatives. Makes recommendations for approval.

Gadsden County Development Council:

Serves as stakeholder advisory board for Economic Development. Reviews staff analysis, proposed projects and economic development initiatives and makes non-binding recommendations to Gadsden County Commission.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners:

Reviews staff analysis, proposed projects and economic development initiatives. Receives recommendation from GCDC. Makes independent and final decision.

Mr. Lewis stated they will soon be located at the Marie Brooks Art Gallery which is projected to open 3Q 2023. He stated they just won a Grant of \$59,475.50 from Competitive Florida. The Grant will help the County to create an economic development strategy through innovative planning and public engagement.

Mr. Lewis mentioned the major public investments coming soon:

- Gadsden County Emergency Operations Center
- Gadsden County Sheriff's Department HQ
- Public Safety Complex
- Joe Adams Road Improvements
- Boys & Girls Club (Quincy)

4. Legislative Agenda

5. Discussion (All)

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
September 6, 2023 – Workshop

Motion to Adjourn

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH DECLARED
THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED AT 5:51 P.M.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT A VAB ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN
AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON
SEPTEMBER 8, 2023 AT 10:00 AM, THE
FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

Present: ERIC HINSON, Commissioner
KIMBLIN NESMITH, Commissioner
CATHY JOHNSON, School Board Representative
CHRISSY SHORTER-ARNOLD, Real Property Representative
FREDERICA YOUNG, Commercial Property Representative
LOUIS J. BAPTISTE, VAB Attorney
MARCELLA BLOCKER, Deputy Clerk
ADRIANA QUIJADA, Deputy Clerk

1. Call to Order

Commissioner Hinson called the meeting to order at 10:04 am.

2. Nominations and Election of Chairman to Value Adjustment Board (VAB)

(Must be a County Commissioner)

Mr. Baptiste asked for a motion to select a County Commissioner.

**UPON MOTION BY CATHY JOHNSON TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER HINSON AS CHAIRMAN
FOR VAB AND SECOND BY CHAIR NESMITH, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO
APPROVE THIS NOMINATION.**

3. Rules of Uniform Procedure-Instructions from VAB Attorney

Mr. Baptiste stated their job was to hear petitions. Taxpayers have a right to file a petition to come before the VAB. He mentioned that lawyers could not vote on the Board. He stated he would have copies of 12-D-9 at the next meeting.

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.

Mr. Baptiste stated the above.

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.

Mr. Baptiste stated the above

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 stated him and the Clerk would need to certify. He stated they need to be certified every year.

7. Adoption and Ratification of the Filing Fee of \$15.00

Mr. Baptiste asked for a motion to adopt and ratify the filing fee of \$15.00.

UPON MOTION BY CHRISSY SHORTER-ARNOLD AND SECOND BY CATHY JOHNSON, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE FILING FEE OF \$15.00.

8. Discussion and Direction of Late Filed Petition

Deputy Clerk stated the deadline is tomorrow and there are currently no late petitions.

Mr. Baptiste stated to table number 8 and asked for a motion.

UPON MOTION BY CATHY JOHNSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER NESMITH, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO TABLE NUMBER 8.

UPCOMING HEARING DATE

Petition Hearing date is scheduled for October 10, 2023 starting at 9:00 a.m. and a quorum will need to be present.

Chair Hinson read aloud the above.

Gadsden County Value Adjustment Board
September 8, 2023 – Organizational Meeting

MOTION TO RECESS

Chair Hinson asked for a motion to recess this meeting.

UPON MOTION BY CHRISSY SHORTER-ARNOLD AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER NESMITH, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO RECESS THIS MEETING.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

KIMBLIN NESMITH, Chair

Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A MEETING OF THE TOURIST DEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FL ON
SEPTEMBER 11, 2023 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
Charles Williams, Havana Council Member
Ronte Harris, Quincy City Commissioner

Absent: Linda Dixon, Tax Collector
Peter Patel, Tax Collector

Staff Present: Ed Dixon, County Administrator
Leslie Steele, TDC Administrator
Clayton Knowles, Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

WELCOME

Chair Ford called the meeting to order at 5:12 pm.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ROLL CALL

Chair Ford led into the Pledge of Allegiance.

Deputy Clerk did roll call.

REGULAR MEETING

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH A SECOND BY
COMMISSIONER HARRIS. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

a. Approval of Minutes

- **May 22, 2023 Workshop**
- **June 12, 2023**

b. Discussion and Action on TDC Branding and Medium Four Payment

Ms. Steele stated this was for approval of the TDC branding and the invoice attached of \$3500 for MediumFour.

Ms. Steele explained that they had 2 workshops with MediumFour. There was discussion regarding the logo and everyone agreed they approved of it.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE NEW LOGO AND THE PAYMENT OF \$3,500 WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HARRIS. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

c. Discussion and Action on Marketing funds for 200 Year Celebration

Ms. Steele stated this item is presented to approve marketing funds for the County's 200-Year Bicentennial Celebration. She stated they have had many events and TDC has played a role in them. Ms. Steele stated Havana wants their funding for the Pumpkinfest. She mentioned that the 5K event was so successful they want to make it an annual event.

Ms. Steele stated they would ask for \$60,000 line items 54810 and 54812 of the tourism marketing funds.

Mr. Dubree said he did not see where they were actually marketing what was going on from a tourist perspective.

Ms. Steele stated the funds would be to market the event, not to pay for it.

Chair Ford asked how have they monitored those dollars and making sure they are being used for the purpose that has been stated. Ms. Steele stated receipts are available if they would like to see them.

Commissioner Holt asked what was new on the items that would make them come back? Chair Ford said the County was becoming more attractive every day and will keep people coming back. Ms. Steele stated they could have tours of historic cemeteries, historic Courthouse, antiques, etc.

Ms. Steele stated they need to market the events. She stated \$50,000 was for marketing and \$10,000 to buy trinkets saying 'Visit Historic Gadsden'.

Ms. Steele wanted everyone to keep in mind that this was for this current Fiscal Year. They have new money coming in on October 1.

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

d. Discussion and Action on Crappie Tournaments

Ms. Steele stated this item was to approve marketing funds for three Crappie Tournaments.

\$7,500 line items 54810 of the tourism marketing fund for the December 6-9, 2023, Professional Crappie Anglers Association.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE \$7,500 WITH A SECOND BY JEFF DUBREE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

\$6,500 line items 54810 of the tourism marketing fund for the January 6, 2024, Crappie American Fishing Tournaments Inc.

\$17,500 line items 54810 of the tourism marketing fund for the January 19-20, 2024 American Fishing Tournaments Inc.

Mr. Dubree explained the tournaments and stated they were all owned now by one person, Blake Jackson.

Mr. Dubree stated there was a 90% chance the January 6th tournament would take place with or without money given to them. Ms. Steele said he called this morning and that is the first tournament of the year.

Mr. Dubree felt that the biggest bang is to not market to professional anglers but do something with events. Commissioner Holt asked about tour boats while the tournament was happening. Mr. Dubree stated they have a company doing tours now.

Chair Ford mentioned to move \$17,500 to a lower amount and then to sponsor local fishermen.

Commissioner Holt asked to concentrate on \$6500 and Chair Ford said to add local to it. Ms. Steele suggested to sponsor \$6500 and try to negotiate price on \$17,500.

Chair Ford stated for them to concentrate on \$6,500 and look at the local side.

Commissioner Holt asked if they live stream on each of them. Mr. Dubree stated he thought only if in the contract. Commissioner Holt stated they already approved the \$7500, they need to look at how to market the other two. Chair Ford stated they would definitely need to table the \$17,500.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE \$6,500 FOR JANUARY 6 EVENT AND PAY LOCAL ENTRY FEE FOR UP TO 5 TEAMS FROM GADSDEN COUNTY AND GIVE \$2,000 TO WINNER WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HARRIS. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

d. Discussion and Action on Tourism Grant Funds for local events

Ms. Steele stated this item was to approve marketing funds for local tourism grants for local events. She stated all of their marketing dollars have to be spent on marketing and has to have TDC logo on it.

Ms. Steel stated they have 5 applications. Havana Reggae Fest qualified and asked to approve \$5,000 from line item 54811.

JEFF DUBREE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE \$5,000 FOR THE HAVANA REGGAE FEST.

The next line item 54811 is for Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. asking for \$3,203. Ms. Steele stated they have provided receipts for their souvenir booklets.

COMMISSIONER HARRIS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE \$3,203 FOR ZETA PHI BETA SORORITY WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

The next line item 54811 is \$433.23 for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Committee of Chattahoochee, Florida.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HARRIS. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE \$433.23.

The next line item 54811 is \$1,000 for Gadsden County Athletic Hall of Fame

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HARRIS. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE \$1,000 FOR THE GADSDEN COUNTY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME.

The last line item 54811 is \$5,000 for DJ Trucker MC LLC and he has receipts for the event.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HARRIS. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE \$5,000 FOR DJ Trucker MC LLC.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Ms. Steele asked if want to make a workshop on destinations. She asked what date and if they want to make it a double workshop.

The date was set for October 2 at 5:00 pm. Attorney Knowles stated he had a conflict but he was not needed.

Commissioner Holt mentioned having a group working on a treasure hunt for the County starting with the 1700's.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

ADJOURNMENT THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR FORD DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:56 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

CAROLYN FORD, Chair
Tourist Development Council

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A BUDGET HEARING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON SEPTEMBER 12, 2023 AT 6:00
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: **Kimblin NeSmith, Chair, District 3**
 Eric Hinson, Vice-Chair, District 1 – arrived late
 Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2
 Brenda Holt, District 4
 Ronterious “Ron” Green, District 5 – appeared by Zoom
 Georgette Daniels, Assistant County Administrator
 Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
 Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair NeSmith called the First Public Hearing to order at 6:02 p.m., Commissioner Simpkins gave the Invocation and led in Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Daniels announced there was no amendments to the Agenda.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD (3-Minute Limit)

The Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners welcomes and encourages public participation at all meetings of the Board. Citizens are free to speak for up to three (3) minutes on non-agenda items. Public comments and participation are also encouraged for items on the agenda. Additionally, if you are unable to attend a meeting in person, comments from the Public can also be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until noon on the date of the meeting. Comments submitted after the deadline, but prior to the meeting, will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting. Citizens are further encouraged to participate via Zoom using the credentials on the County’s website. The Board’s meetings are also broadcast live on the Board’s Facebook page.

Chair NeSmith read aloud the above statement.

William (Bill) Farr, 564 Middle Creek Road, Quincy, FL

Cathy Farr, 564 Middle Creek Road, Quincy, FL

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Public Hearing-First Public Hearing for Adoption of Tentative Millage Rate and Tentative Budget for FY 2023/2024

Chair NeSmith announced this was the first of two Public Hearings for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 to discuss and adopt the millage rate and budget. He said the proposed aggregate millage rate was

9.5000 mills, which was 20.87% more than the aggregate rolled-back millage rate of 7.8597 mills.

Ms. Daniels read into the record the proposed County-wide millage rate of 9.5000, which is 20.87% more than the County-wide rolled-back millage rate of 7.8597 mills. She said anyone that had submitted a Speaker Request form was allowed to step forward.

Cathy Farr, 564 Middle Creek Road, Quincy, FL 32351, appeared before the Board to speak against the increase in the millage rate. She said last week they heard that the Board was concerned about housing, people upkeeping their homes, keeping their homes and they were concerned that increases in tax would tax people out of their home. She said it was the worst thing to do in times of inflation because people did not have any extra discretionary income and would not be able to support the County, support businesses, going out to eat and supporting the churches. She requested the millage rate stay the same at 9.0 or be reduced or rolled-back. She also mentioned Bay County had rolled their millage rate back.

William (Bill) Farr, 564 Middle Creek Road, Quincy, FL 32351, appeared before the Board and spoke to oppose the increase in the millage rate. He said when taxes increase, the people spend less and that hurts the County, cities and everyone because businesses will suffer. He said they have fallen into a trap expecting the government to bail them out and fix their problems and the government cannot do that. He proposed they get churches to ban together, start a benevolence fund to be used in the community to help. It would free up the County from having to do all of that.

Commissioner Hinson appeared at 6:18 pm.

Ms. Daniels said the tentative budget at 9.5000 mills would be \$63,993,581 and is 11.4% higher than the prior fiscal year's adopted budget of \$57,446,834.00. The impact of the millage rate increase from 9.0 mills to 9.5 mills would be an additional \$975,000 and that amount has been added into Reserve Contingency in the 2023-2024 budget pending Board direction and was currently earmarked for EMS & Fire.

Commissioner Green said Chair NeSmith did a good job on the purpose and said there were major issues with fire services. A joint meeting was held with the City of Quincy to attempt to discuss providing fire services to the County but they brought out very important numbers that they will need to find a way to find that money on a regular basis. He felt they need to have town hall meetings to discuss the need of raising the millage rate so it would be better understood.

Commissioner Holt said they have a conundrum to figure out what to do about fire training and services. If they do not get someone in there that is a certified fireman, the insurance rate will be going up. She felt getting churches involved would help. She asked Ms. Daniels what the increase in dollars at 9.5 mills would be and she said \$975,351 and that was budgeting at 95% of the revenue, as required by law. Commissioner Holt asked if it could be earmarked for fire service and EMS. She said as they knew, anything budgeted in Reserve for Contingency must be approved by the Board before it could be moved to any line item. Mr. Knowles said he did not think they could lock it in, it would have to be done in a separate motion. If they want to earmark it within the budget after passing the tentative millage rate, it could be done there.

Commissioner Holt said the Property Appraiser had been notified that the value adjustment had to be done and was required by the State of Florida to increase the value, in turn would increase the value and would increase property taxes anyway.

Commissioner Hinson asked about Fire Control and the increase in the budget of this year of \$338,359. He asked the difference in Fire Control and what they were talking about using the funds for.

Ms. Daniels said in the Fire Control budget, the money that goes into that fund is assessments they get from fire services as well as they give them half of the half cent sales tax. Because it was coming in from ad valorem taxes, it would have to go into the General Fund. She said in the Reserve for Contingency was about \$2.9 Million and was the \$975,000 was going as well as the additional revenue they were having from the sales tax program they were putting in Reserves as well. All of that is going into Reserve for Contingency until the Board adopts a plan for how the money would be spent and then it could be transferred to the Fire Control fund.

Commissioner Hinson said they still increased the budget by \$338,359.

Ms. Daniels said they were continually replacing fire trucks for the volunteer fire departments and right now it was costing about \$400,000. They were putting in some funding for training of volunteer firefighters that were already at some of the volunteer stations.

He also asked about Elderly Affairs and the budget of \$810,859 and asked if that was a new position and what the money was going to.

Chair NeSmith said that was a department under the BOCC that they staffed.

Commissioner Hinson said they put \$475,000 in a non-profit.

Commissioner Simpkins said with Elderly Affairs, they did not give the non-profit the \$475,000 but the BOCC has an Elderly Affairs Department that they staffed.

Ms. Daniels said that department includes 5 full time positions that are the Director, Coordinator, Program Manager, Lead Case Manager, Office Clerk; 10 part-time positions including Fiscal Officer, part-time Fiscal Officer, part-time Fiscal Assistant, 5 Activity Coordinators, a kitchen manager and 2 activity assistants. They also budgeted for operating supplies, etc.

Commissioner Hinson wanted to make sure constituents understood they had three separate budgets they were not disclosing; CARES, ARPA and the regular budget. Out of the ARPA, they will receive \$475,000, that was what the Board decided for the next two to three years.

Ms. Daniels said in the current fiscal year they had allocated money; the Board approved allocating of \$475,000 to the newly created department. They re-allocated some money that was coming into the General Fund.

Commissioner Hinson said by the next meeting, he will pull the documentation.

Commissioner Holt said that department was board approved, they have to deal with numbers in the budget, they cannot base the budget on anything from the State or Federal that was not reoccurring monies.

She asked where in this budget could they find carry-over from 23 to 24.

Commissioner Simpkins felt they were hounding on Fire and EMS but they have not set with the other municipalities and did not have a plan, they do not know what the cost factor will be. They have citizens that have lost insurance and they have done nothing about it. Going through the budget line by line was why she asked for a workshop to sit collectively and go through the budget. They do not know the amount needed because they have not set down and had a meeting. She asked for a workshop in a meeting to be able to discuss this with her counterparts, they need to have a discussion collectively. She said the Board has relied so much on the Administrator and staff but they were not requiring the information to come to them. They were a couple of weeks away from this being due to the State and they have not set down and reviewed line by line as a Commission to decide what needed. The Administrator does not get beat up, the Commissioners do by the citizens. They do not know what was needed because they have not set down and came up with plan to say what they needed in order for the EMS/Fire services to work properly so all the stations have an ISO rating of less than 10 so the citizens could be insured.

Chair NeSmith said he recalled a discussion of doing an RFP to get an idea of where they were with fire services.

Commissioner Simpkins said that came up last meeting, it had been months since she brought up about the ISO ratings. They did not have time for an RFP, RFQ, or whatever, if a storm comes through now, the citizens have no insurance and that is problem. They do not have months, they need a workshop and that needs to be top on the Agenda. She said they were always playing catch-up. She said a while back when the people were ready for their insurance to be renewed, it would not be renewed with the Fire Stations being at a 10 and that was where they were now. They are not being renewed because the ISO was at a 10 and not only that, the contracts were out of date.

Commissioner Green said time is of the essence but they have to start somewhere. He asked if they have numbers for a 9.25 millage rate.

Ms. Daniels said at 9.25 mills, there would be 17.69% more, the tentative budget would be \$63,505,907 and a 10.5% increase over the previous year's adopted budget and would give \$488,000 additional over what they would get from an increase in property value.

Commissioner Hinson said Commissioner Green was right, he started with Fire Control first. He asked about the Interfund transfer, that was increased by \$307,496. He also said they need to have an itemized plan so they know the increases and decreases.

Ms. Daniels said any funding coming into the General Fund that needs to be spent in another fund is transferred. The \$2 Million allocated from the Sales Tax program, because they were not funding Elder Affairs from ARPA, \$500,000 of the \$2 Million will go to Elder Affairs, give or take the revenue the received from the grant. The other \$1.5 Million, the Board did not give

direction on how they thought it should be allocated so it was placed into Reserve for Contingency so they could look at that and let Staff know how they wanted it spent.

Commissioner Hinson asked the difference between General Fund and Reserve for Contingency. Ms. Daniels explained was a “department” within the General Fund, they have to budget the revenue and expenditures somewhere in order for the budget to be balanced. If there is not a specific expenditure that they have not gotten approval or direction from the Board, they put it in Reserve for Contingency and revisit so the Board could approve what the money is spent for.

Commissioner Green said his question was about the \$1.5 Million, could some be moved to aid the Fire Services Department without increasing to 9.5 mills.

Ms. Daniels said there were several things they proposed using the money for and one was for a debt service on an infrastructure bond. There was never a consensus on what they would use the money for.

Commissioner Green said he thought there should be a number allocated for Fire Services.

Chair NeSmith asked if it was appropriate for Mrs. Farr comment again and was told yes.

Ms. Farr said this was a lot of new information. IF EMS and Fire was so dire, why did they allocate \$810,859 for Elder Services for the same year when it was zero previously if Fire and EMS was more important.

Commissioner Hinson said the ½ cent sales tax was going into Reserve for Contingency and was told yes, a portion was.

Chair NeSmith said if he had questions going through the budget, he sat down with the Assistant County Administrator and went line by line for clarification. Commissioner Hinson said that was why Commissioner Simpkins asked for a workshop prior to this meeting and they never had that workshop.

Commissioner Simpkins said Commissioner Hinson asked one of the questions she was going to ask. She said since they were harboring on the fire assessment, when she looked at the Budget, they knew the need was there but did not see in the tentative budget there was only an increase request of \$320,000 total for fire control. She said they should not just be addressing this.

Commissioner Holt said they met with the person that represented the bond company and they could do a bond. If they decide to take another avenue, they could reduce the millage rate back down. She asked if they could schedule a meeting with the Administrator before the next public hearing and they would know where they were. She said to request that all Constitutional Officers come and the Department heads be at the meeting.

Chair NeSmith said Tuesday was the second Public Budget Hearing, was there enough time to schedule a workshop for Monday? He asked if it could be on Monday and Mr. Knowles said yes.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 7:51 pm.

Commissioner Simpkins said she wanted to request a workshop because she heard meet with the Assistant County Administrator, meet with the Budget Director, but she also would like have a chance to talk with her fellow commissioners about the budget and that could only be done in a workshop or meeting.

Chair NeSmith asked for a time on Monday and Commissioner Simpkins said 3:00 pm and Commissioner Hinson agreed with 3:00 or 4:00, Commissioner Green said he was also available at that time.

Chair NeSmith asked the Assistant Administrator to make that happen for a workshop on Monday at 3:00.

Chair NeSmith said Florida Statutes requires the Board to address the millage rate before addressing each budget. The Board must vote on each millage rate and budget separately and he would now entertain a motion.

Commissioner Holt returned at 7:54 pm.

He reminded them it was set at 9.5 mills, could not be increased but it could be reduced.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MILLAGE RATE AT 9.5 MILLS AND CHAIR NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 2-3 BY VOICE VOTE. MOTION FAILED. COMMISSIONER HINSON, COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS AND COMMISSIONER GREEN OPPOSED.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO CONSIDER THE MILLAGE RATE AT 9.25 AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER HINSON AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS OPPOSED.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE COUNTY-WIDE BUDGET AND CHAIR NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner Hinson said there was a few things he wanted to talk about. He said one was he had a question about Aid to Private Organizations-Big Bend Transit-JUST READ.

Ms. Daniels said in fiscal year 22-23, \$132,000 was budgeted in that department for the Big Bend Transit for the Gadsden Shuttle, Gadsden Express, Havana Shuttle and was also budgeted \$150,000 for the **JUST READ** program that never materialized and they moved money, with Board approval, to the Summer Youth program.

Commissioner Hinson asked about the Senior Citizens budget, last year it was \$100,000 and this year only \$10,000. Why?

Ms. Daniels said now that they have the Elderly Affairs Department, money was moved into that department.

Commissioner Hinson said they need to allocate money for the upkeep of the buildings.

Ms. Daniels said that money left was for the Gretna Senior Services because they have not been incorporated into the Elderly Affairs program.

Ms. Fryson appeared by Zoom and said Chattahoochee and Havana was under the Elderly Affairs department. Commissioner Hinson asked about Midway. Ms. Fryson said when she last checked with Midway, they were not operating, they had work to do and she would check back with them.

Ms. Daniels said there was not a functioning organization to give money to in Midway. Ms. Fryson said that was correct and based on her understanding, they did not request additional funding.

Commissioner Hinson said he had visited there several times and it was nice, they may have moved to another location. He was told they have tried to contact staff and never got a response. He said he would get information before the next meeting.

Commissioner Green asked for more clarity, they were having a workshop on Monday and it would give them an opportunity to discuss this matter then. They were just going through the process of approving the budget tonight.

Commissioner Holt said she agreed. When approaching the cities, they should put teeth in the game.

Ms. Daniels said, for clarity, they adopted 9.25 mill and they were now adopting the budget of \$63,505,907.

COMMISSIONER HOLT AMDENDED HER MOTION AND CHAIR NESMITH AMENDED HIS SECOND.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION THAT THE TENTATIVE BUDGET AT 9.25 MILLAGE RATE IS \$63,505,907 AND IS A 10.5% INCREASE OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR BUDGET OF \$57,446,834 AND CHAIR NESMITH MADE THE SECOND.

Commissioner Hinson asked the amount in the General Fund Fund Balance and Ms. Daniels said she could email that number to the Commissioners tomorrow.

Commissioner Hinson said they should never come into a budget meeting without having the fund balance. They need that number first before approving anything.

CHAIR NESMITH CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS AND COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.

Commissioner Hinson asked how could he write check without knowing the amount in the account.

Ms. Daniels said the General Fund Fund balance was \$6,256,457.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
September 12, 2023 – First Public Hearing

MOTION TO ADJOURN

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH DECLARED
THE PUBLIC HEARING ADJOURNED AT 8:23 PM.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A BUDGET WORKSHOP OF THE
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY,
FLORIDA ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2023 AT
3:00 PM, THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING
WAS HAD, VIZ:**

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

Call To Order, Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance

Chair NeSmith called the workshop to order at 3:04 pm. Pastor Farr provided Invocation; Chair NeSmith led into the Pledge of Allegiance.

Citizens Requesting to Be Heard (3-Minute Limit)

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Bill Farr, 564 Middle Creek Rd

Bill Farr appeared before the Board to talk about the Budget. He thanked the County Administrator for a great report on the website. He stated he learned that all employees in the County received a bonus of \$2,000 last year. He also learned about the 9 million American Rescue funds given to the County. He asked that the millage rate stay the same or go lower.

Commissioner Hinson appeared at 3:13 pm.

General Business

1. Introduction

(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator)

2. Summary Highlights & Budget Review

(Georgette Daniels, Assistant County Administrator / Jenifer Burgess, Budget Manager)

Ms. Daniels stated they will be walking them through budget. Ms. Burgess appeared before the Board. She stated they have provided a summary of the budget. At 9.25 mill rate, budget will be \$63,483,156. She stated the additional \$487,000 has been placed in the Department for Reserve for Contingency. That department also includes the 1.5 million dollars from the Half Cent Sales tax.

Ms. Burgess stated for Economic Development, the current year they have expenditures related to salaries and benefits for the Director of Economic Development and Administrative Assistant. They also have operating expenses of around \$97,000 for that Department which includes rent, contractual services, marketing advertisement, office supplies, training, utilities, etc. They also have budgeted \$20,000 for equipment such as computers, cameras, etc. Ms. Burgess stated they have budgeted \$50,000 for the Economic Development Grant Program.

Chair NeSmith asked if that Department number 0024 was captured in the line item. Ms. Burgess stated correct.

Ms. Burgess stated the Department of Elderly Affairs includes salaries and benefits for 5 full time and 10 part time staff. She stated there is operating supplies budgeted for \$50,000 which includes congregate meals, kitchen supplies, etc. They also have contractual services which includes security, garbage pick-up, food services, tax prep. They have Utilities of \$10,000 and Communications \$16,000. Promotional Activities for \$11,000. She stated there is also a \$30,000 Residence Assistance Program in that budget.

Chair NeSmith asked the County Administrator about the utilities for that location being municipal. Mr. Dixon stated it was municipal.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if they were asking questions as they go along or what was the process. Chair NeSmith stated they will let her finish the whole presentation first then go back and ask questions.

Commissioner Holt asked if they would give the line-item number next time. Ms. Burgess stated it was line-item number 0060.

Ms. Burgess stated they have also budgeted for some Capital Projects. She stated for line-item 0301, there is a Capital project for an elevator at the W.A. Woodham Building for \$225,000. There is also a roof needed at that building budgeted for \$125,000. Capital project 0342 Fire truck replacement for Midway for \$430,000. Ms. Burgess stated for Information Technology 0030, they have had some increases related to software for cyber security, network wiring, network support, operating supplies, adobe. That would lead to an increase of \$170,000. For line-item 0235, County Administrator, they have budgeted some increases in salaries in anticipation of the new contract for the County Administrator. Commissioner Simpkins asked if they budgeted for other employees as well. Ms. Burgess stated no, they did not have the exact number per department to budget for each of them.

Ms. Burgess stated for line-item 0077, Aid to Private Organizations, there was a decrease of \$150,000 due to those funds being moved from the Just Read Program to the Summer Youth Program. She stated there is an increase of \$150,000 to Department 0450, Summer Youth Program. Department 0233, Public Information Office, there was increases related to the 'Love Where You Live' Campaign. Increases related to advertising, community outreach, promotional marketing, etc. Ms. Burgess stated Department 0001, County Commissioners, had increases related to insurance. There were also increases for the contractual services. Ms. Burgess stated last week, the Commissioners mentioned increase in Interfund Transfers, Department 9001.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
September 18, 2023 – Budget Workshop

Commissioner Simpkins asked about the insurance and if they were able to get a better rate. She asked if there was a policy in place saying that they have to stay with that insurance. Mr. Dixon stated that was of concern. He stated the contract has been going on for a while and it was time for it to go out. Chair NeSmith stated it was showing \$115,000 increase and they have to finalize the budget tomorrow. Mr. Dixon stated they would not be able to do it this Fiscal Year, but it was time for it to go out.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned it showed \$40,000 for Black History, but then it also showed an additional \$15,000 on the back page for the FAMU foundation. She stated that was \$55,000 just for Black History activities. She stated if they were paying the \$15,000, then that needs to be included in the Black History account. Commissioner Simpkins stated she had a problem with having residents from Gadsden County attending FAMU but not able to access the funds because they are not in the band. She stated it needed to be accessible to all Gadsden County students attending FAMU. Ms. Daniels stated the payment to the FAMU Foundation is a payment to the non-profit organization, therefore, it has to be budgeted in a separate line-item. She mentioned about the marching band participating in the Black History parade, which has increased the County's overall participation. Commissioner Simpkins stated she did not have a problem with giving money to FAMU, but she did have a problem with having residents in Gadsden County attending FAMU but they are not able to access these funds. Ms. Daniels stated they could take a look at that donation to FAMU and look at the criteria. Commissioner Simpkins stated she would like a copy of the contract. She stated the funds need to be available to all residents not just for band members.

Commissioner Green stated they should have partnership with their local high school band to help push people to attend FAMU under the music department.

Commissioner Holt asked Ms. Daniels if she addressed all comments with Commissioners. Ms. Daniels stated those that contacted her.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned Human Resources and what the change was. Ms. Daniels stated that would be a new HR system of \$50,000. She stated Ms. Maas is here and may be able to explain a little bit more about the system upgrade. Commissioner Simpkins stated she wanted to know if that

would allow applications to be filled online. Mr. Dixon stated it was more of an IT thing on whether or not applications could be filled online. Ms. Steele stated there was a danger of citizens putting in their Social Security Number online. They were trying to find a safer system. Mr. Dixon asked if under the new system, could people do an application online without their Social Security Number. Ms. Steele stated yes. Commissioner Simpkins stated this was 2023 and most applications are online so, they could not say it was because of putting in a Social Security Number.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned Public Information Office. She stated for the contractual services, they were going from \$17,000 to \$82,000. Difference of \$64,000. Ms. Daniels stated the major difference was the \$50,000 increase for the visibility and community outreach efforts to get information out to the public by various media outlets. Commissioner Simpkins asked Ms. Daniels if she was referring to the contractual services. Ms. Daniels stated yes. Commissioner Simpkins asked if they have a contract right now for designs. Ms. Daniels stated they were sending that back out for an RFP. Commissioner Simpkins asked if they currently have a Graphic Design contract. Ms. Daniels stated they have someone who is providing those services for them and have put it out for an RFP. Commissioner Simpkins stated she wanted to see the RFP and the challenge information. Commissioner Simpkins mentioned getting with the local high school and designing flyers. Commissioner Simpkins clarified that they were looking at \$100,000 for advertising. Ms. Daniels stated they have been using more medio billboard advertising. She stated costs have increased for advertising.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 4:03 pm.

Commissioner Holt returned at 4:05 pm.

Commissioner Holt stated every time they have an activity, they want it marketed. They need to market those items if they want a good turnout. Commissioner Holt asked Ms. Daniels if they have addressed the concerns they had. She stated she was used to sitting down with the Director and getting questions answered.

Commissioner Hinson asked about tourism. Ms. Daniels stated the Tourist Development Council receives funding from Bed Tax. Commissioner Hinson mentioned integrating public-private

partnership with some of the programs they are giving money to. He stated they still need to keep in mind that they are a fiscally constrained County. He questioned if they were able to still do these things in 3 or 4 years.

Commissioner Green mentioned budgeting for a possible increase for employees. He stated he had concerns because they have supervisors making the same thing as people that they supervise. He thought that they had budgeted for staff increases. Ms. Daniels stated the compensation study was well on the way. She stated they have 1.5 million dollars in Reserve, not allocated. Mr. Dixon stated they had a lot of people under \$15, they moved a bunch of people already.

Commissioner Green stated he made a motion of 9.25 for the millage rate only because he was interested in what they could do with that. He stated there would be an increase of \$487,000 if they go with 9.25. He wanted them to think about whether it was worth raising at this particular moment.

Chair NeSmith stated they need to look at ways to collaborate with entities. He stated they need to make sure that these municipalities contribute to their programs.

Commissioner Holt stated she agreed with Commissioner Green. They need to decide on the millage rate. She was ready to move on this and she really just wanted them to sit down and get these numbers. She stated they could clear up a lot of these things by meeting with the staff.

Commissioner Simpkins asked about Elderly Affairs and the \$40,000 that was allocated for the foundation. She thought the foundation was established to raise money to assist with the senior's budget. She asked why they were giving \$40,000. Mr. Dixon stated part of it was to simply do things they could not do as a County Government. As a non-profit, they could not do certain things. He stated it was an invest to get them up and running. The money was going back to the Senior Services. They do not have any ability to get a Grant Writer. He believed they could raise a bunch of money and qualify for a lot of Grants that the County would not. Commissioner Simpkins stated she heard what Mr. Dixon was saying but she just thought that that particular group was for raising money. She asked if they received funding from the \$475,000 of ARPA funds. Mr. Dixon stated no.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
September 18, 2023 – Budget Workshop

Chair NeSmith asked what would it take for that organization to write Grants. He wanted to know what it would take for them to get off the ground. Mr. Dixon stated they were chastised heavily for assisting them in writing Grants.

Commissioner Hinson asked who was the Executive Director for the foundation. Mr. Dixon stated they did not have one, Just Chair Germany that runs the Board. Commissioner Hinson asked who were the Board member and how long have they been operating. Mr. Dixon stated they have met a couple of times. Commissioner Hinson stated the Executive Director's job was to find grants and the vision of the Board. He stated they need to give them direction.

Commissioner Hinson asked how much was in general funds. Ms. Burgess stated they have balance of \$6,256,457. The number will change throughout the rest of this year. Commissioner Hinson asked how many employees they have working \$15 an hour and under \$20 an hour. Ms. Burgess stated she did not have those numbers.

Commissioner Hinson stated they need to hold conversations about community centers in the east and west side of Gadsden County.

Commissioner Simpkins stated there was not really an increase for fire services. She stated that was a concern. Commissioner Simpkins stated in district 2, people are not hearing about doing a study. She stated they need a right now plan for fire services. Ms. Daniels stated funding for fire services comes from Half Cent Sales Tax and other revenues. She stated \$487,000 is in Reserve for Contingency until they get a plan and then they would able to transfer to Fire services. She stated they have that money earmarked for Fire services, but until the Commissioners authorizes them to transfer that money to Fire services, they could not do it. Commissioner Hinson stated to Commissioner Simpkins that all she had to do was say that she would like to add X amount of dollars into this particular budget. Then, the Board would decide to agree or not.

Commissioner Green stated the only way he would support the millage rate is knowing that they would be allocating those funds for fire services.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 5:38 pm.

Commissioner Holt returned at 5:41 pm.

Chair NeSmith verified that Midway has a Fire Department. Mr. Dixon stated correct. They have volunteers. Chair NeSmith stated the City of Quincy responds to calls from Midway because they are not sure if the Midway volunteers are going to respond. Mr. Dixon stated yes, a lot of their calls.

Commissioner Simpkins returned at 6:01 pm.

Commissioner Simpkins stated when they leave today, they need to have on their calendars scheduled dates for the municipalities as well as the volunteer fire departments to have a meeting with them. Commissioner Green stated they can hear some of the firefighters or Chiefs, but would that give them accurate information on what they need before they have the assessment done? What would be the purpose of having the assessment if they are going to plan to meet with them? His thought process was having a collaboration after the assessment was done.

Chief Hood stated they need to understand which municipalities want to be a part of the assessment. That way, they could have an understanding of which parts of the County they are truly assessing as it relates to Fire. Commissioner Simpkins stated they do need to have the meetings so that way the municipalities could determine if they want to be a part of the assessment. Commissioner Hinson stated before they go out and talk about doing an assessment, they need to be given directives from the Board of County Commissioners, not from Staff. He stated they need to be careful with their wording, they should be saying it is a study instead of an assessment. Commissioner Green stated a few months ago, he mentioned about having a volunteer program. One of the issues was that they did not have enough manpower at the stations, which affected their rates. Chief Hood stated they have been working on that over the last couple of months.

Commissioner Hinson asked how much did the give to City of Quincy. Chair NeSmith stated around \$500,000. Commissioner Hinson stated if they are giving them \$500,000, it seems like they should know exactly what is going on with the City of Quincy.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 6:28 pm

Commissioner Hinson stated a lot of people are thinking that all because of the Fire ratings, their insurance is going up. He asked what was the difference between Concord and the Town of Havana. Mr. Dixon stated because Concord is tightknit, it is probably easier to keep volunteers than Havana. Commissioner Simpkins stated the ISO ratings do have a small effect on the actual cost of the insurance, her concern was the 10's because insurance companies are dropping residents and businesses due to those fire departments having a 10. Commissioner Hinson stated they need to find a solution to this problem.

Chair NeSmith asked Chief Walker if before the Board approves the allotment for all 12 fire departments, does he get a request. Chief Walker stated yes. Commissioner Hinson stated he concurred with what Commissioner Simpkins said about scheduling a meeting for this.

Motion to Adjourn

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH DECLARED THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED AT 6:51 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

KIMBLIN NESMITH, 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 SEPTEMBER
19, 2023 AT 6:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING
PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

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

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

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

Amendments and Approval of Agenda

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Awards, Presentations and Appearances

CONSENT

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

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

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

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

The Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners welcomes and encourages public participation at all meetings of the Board. Citizens are free to speak for up to three (3) minutes on non-agenda items. Public comments and participation are also encouraged for items on the agenda. Additionally, if you are unable to attend a meeting in person, comments from the Public can also be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.org until noon on the date of the meeting. Comments submitted after the deadline, but prior to the meeting, will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting. Citizens are further encouraged to participate via Zoom using the credentials on the County’s website. The Board’s meetings are also broadcast live on the Board’s Facebook page.

Mr. Dixon read aloud the above statement.

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

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

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

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

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

Commissioner Hinson stepped out at 6:24 pm

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

Commissioner Hinson returned 6:26 pm

PUBLIC HEARINGS

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

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

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 6:30 pm.

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

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

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

Susan Vause, 881 Dupont Road

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Robert Hill, 875 Dupont Road

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

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

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

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

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

Commissioner Simpkins stepped out 7:19 pm.

Commissioner Simpkins returned 7:20 pm.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Commissioner Hinson stepped out at 7:33.

Commissioner Hinson returned 7:34 pm.

Commissioner Green returned at 7:37 pm.

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

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

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

GENERAL BUSINESS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 8:48 pm.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CLERK OF COURT

15. Updates

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

16. Updates

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

COUNTY ATTORNEY

17. Updates

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

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

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

18. Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dr. Stallworth said they needed a process.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Commissioner Eric Hinson, Vice-Chair, District 1

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

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

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

Commissioner Holt left at 10:53 pm.

Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, Chair, District 3

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

MOTION TO ADJOURN

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

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, CLERK

**AT A FINAL BUDGET HEARING OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2023 AT 5:01
PM, THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

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

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair NeSmith called the Budget Public Hearing to order at 5:06 pm, asked Mr. Farr to give the Invocation and the Chair then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD (3-Minute Limit)

The Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners welcomes and encourages public participation at all meetings of the Board. Citizens are free to speak for up to three (3) minutes on non-agenda items. Public comments and participation are also encouraged for items on the agenda. Additionally, if you are unable to attend a meeting in person, comments from the Public can also be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until noon on the date of the meeting. Comments submitted after the deadline, but prior to the meeting, will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting. Citizens are further encouraged to participate via Zoom using the credentials on the County’s website. The Board’s meetings are also broadcast live on the Board’s Facebook page.

Chair NeSmith read the above statement aloud.

Commissioner Hinson stepped out 5:09 pm

Commissioner Hinson returned at 5:09 pm.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Introduction of Proposed Final FY 23/24 Aggregate Millage Rate

Chair NeSmith said this was the second of two required Public Hearings on the Gadsden County 2023-2024 fiscal budget and millage rate. He said the proposed final aggregate millage rate is 9.2500, which is 17.69% more than the aggregate rolled-back millage rate of 7.857 mills.

2. Introduction of Proposed Final FY 23/24 Budget

Mr. Dixon said the proposed final County-wide millage rate is 9.2500 mills, which is 17.69% more than the County-wide rolled-back millage rate of 7.8597 mills. He said at this time, the public was allowed to speak.

3. Questions from the Public

Cathy Farr, 564 Middle Creek Road, Quincy, FL

Mrs. Farr appeared before the Board to ask that the millage rate not be increased for Gadsden County. She asked that the Commissioners actually reduce the millage rate. She looked at the budget on-line and saw that the County employees were budgeted to receive a \$3,000 bonus and there were 700+ employees.

Bill Farr, 564 Middle Creek Road, Quincy, FL

Mr. Farr appeared before the Board and said he was reiterating what Cathy had said earlier. He also asked that the millage rate be reduced, at least to 9.0.

Allen Suber, 1002 West Franklin Street, Quincy, FL

Mr. Suber appeared before the Board and thanked them for the work they do and asked they do not raise the millage rate for the County. He said the property owners would be the bearers of the taxes.

4. Chairman Introduces Motion for:

• **Approval of Final FY 2023-24 Millage Rate**

Chair NeSmith said Florida Statutes requires the Board to address the millage rate before addressing each budget. The Board must vote on each millage rate and budget separately and he would not entertain a motion for the millage rate.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MILLAGE RATE AT 9.2500 AND MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

Commissioner Green said he wanted to make sure they were listening to their constituents. He did not think they were at the right time for an increase.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO MAINTAIN THE MILLAGE RATE AT 9.0000 AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Holt addressed the bonus given to the employees and said pay scale was below where it should have been and they could not afford to give a raise every year and was the reason for the bonus.

Commissioner Green also addressed the bonus, it will not be a continuing bonus and the employees were on a lower pay scale.

• **Approval for Final FY 2023-24 Budget**

Chair NeSmith said they needed a motion on the adoption of the final fiscal year 2023/2024 County-Wide Budget.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER NESMITH.
CHAIR NESMITH ANNOUNCED THE FLOOR WAS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION.**

Commissioner Hinson asked where Mrs. Farr where she saw on-line the bonus that was for the employees.

Mr. Dixon said a bonus was given to all County employees and to the sheriff's Department from ARPA money.

Commissioner Green said they were approving this for a balanced budget but they would be able to move money in the budget but would not be able to go over the budget.

Commissioner Hinson asked about the money for Seniors.

**CHAIR NESMITH CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 TO APPROVE.
COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.**

MOTION TO ADJOURN

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH DECLARED
THE PUBLIC HEARING ADJOURNED AT 5:32 PM.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**KIMBLIN NESMITH, 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, FL ON
OCTOBER 3, 2023 AT 6:00 P.M.,
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING
WAS HAD, VIZ:**

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

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair NeSmith called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Commissioner Hinson asked for a moment of silence. Chair NeSmith led into the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

Amendments and Approval of Agenda

Mr. Dixon requested to pull Item 6.

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

Awards, Presentations and Appearances

1. TMH EAP (Employee Assistance Program) Presentation

Mr. Dixon said they had a presentation from TMH Employee Assistance Program presented by Becky Maas, Human Resource Director. She said they recently switched to TMH and they were local.

Bob Carton, EAP Director, appeared before the Board and said EAP was available to all employees of Gadsden County at no cost to the person. Ms. Maas said she left brochures on the dais for the Commissioners. There has already been participation in the program.

Mr. Dixon said this was a wonderful program that would be free for the employees and their families.

CONSENT

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AND CHAIR NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

2 Ratification Memo

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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Chair NeSmith read the above statement aloud.

John Dunn, 819 Shady Rest, Havana, FL - regarding the Havana Trail

Commissioner Holt appeared at 6:13 pm.

Mr. Dunn appeared before the Board regarding the Havana Trail. He wanted to know if the County Commission would agree to maintain the trail, mowing and blowing off the apron.

Commissioner Hinson said this was a program that was started by the BOCC.

Chair NeSmith said he would put Mr. Dunn in touch with the Administrator.

Commissioner Green asked what was the estimated costs for maintenance. Mr. Dunn said it would be between 1/3 or 1/4 of what Wakulla pays for the St. Marks Trail.

Commissioner Holt asked about the funding mechanism for maintaining the trail and asked if there was any state or federal funding that other trails may use and he did not. Mr. Dunn said the main thing the County would have to do was mow and blow.

Commissioner Simpkins said the Board needed to maintain the trail and asked if Iron Bridge was a county road that Public Works maintains and the Chair said yes. She said that was something they should be doing anyway.

Mr. Tracey Bentley, Talquin Electric Coop

Chair NeSmith said he had an opportunity to attend the solar farm ribbon cuttings in Wakulla, Liberty County and in Hinson community.

Mr. Bentley said in regards to the solar farms, they do smaller scale utility farms and it was clean energy. They get a 20-year price rate on it and the price will not change for 20 years.

Commissioner Holt asked if there would be any reduction in rates because of solar. Mr. Bentley stated because of their solar price, they would not be doing subscriptions.

Mr. Dixon asked him to tell how he provides energy. Mr. Bentley said they did not have generation and transmission. They contract with Seminole Electric.

Mike Watson, 2793 Sycamore Road

Mr. Watson said he knew there was a lot of roads in Gadsden County that needed to be paved. He said it needed to be taken into consideration on how much Sycamore Road was used. He suggested they form a committee from each district to meet to see which roads needed to be paved and in what order.

Gary Murray, Woodberry Road

Mr. Murray asked for the status on Woodberry Road. He said they need lights on that road also. He asked for clarification today because he has heard different things.

Commissioner Holt said Mr. Knowles was looking at the survey. Mr. Dixon said they were looking at the survey and Mr. Knowles said they requested a meeting and asked for records that they have not received yet. Can make better assertion once they receive that.

Chair NeSmith asked Mr. Murray if he met with Mr. Charles Hayes.

Commissioner Holt said she would like for them to give Mr. Murray all the facts so he would not have to wonder where they were with this matter.

Mr. Dixon asked Mr. Hayes to come forward and said they have completed the survey and Mr. Hayes and the Attorney were now getting together regarding the property. He further explained this was a dirt road that the County has looked into accepting it into the County system.

Mr. Knowles said there was a statute that provides if the County maintains that road for 7 years, it is available to become property of the County. They have to have records that are available to take under that statute. Commissioner Holt asked if the records are not available, what options do they have? Mr. Dixon said the survey would allow them to compare with names to make sure they have everyone's permission.

Derrick Elias, 233 Cheeseborough Avenue

Mr. Elias appeared before the Board and wanted to speak with them concerning safety. Every day where Robert F. Monroe is located, people engressing and egressing is atrocious. He has witnessed 7 accidents there. He has seen law enforcement that, some on their own time, patrolling. He asked the County to take the lead and possibly put up a light that would fully function at certain times of the day before and after school and then be a caution light at other times.

Commissioner Hinson stated they have talked about this before. He asked the County Administrator to comment. Mr. Dixon said they have actually sent deputies out and has spoken with the Head Master and flashing lights have been installed. He said the best thing would be to have anyone exiting to go right and not cross over to Lanier Road to avoid accidents.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 6:56 pm.

Commissioner Hinson asked for a traffic light there to stop everyone coming through or have a caution light. They did not want to wait until someone dies. He also mentioned it was a state road.

Commissioner Holt returned at 7:00 pm.

Mr. Dixon asked about a legislative request to fund the auxiliary road to be built. Maybe that would help.

Commissioner Green asked what was the last response from DOT when they reached out to them. Mr. Dixon said they have done studies and continue to do studies. Lights are the last thing they want to do because it stops traffic.

Commissioner Simpkins stepped out at 7:02 pm.

Commissioner Holt said she expressed about having another entrance to that property.

Stacy Copeland, 690 McMillian Road Chattahoochee, FL

Commissioner Simpkins returned at 7:04 pm.

Ms. Copeland appeared before the Board. She said she was small business owner, licensed massage therapist at 310 W. Washington Street, Chattahoochee. She said she appeared a couple of years ago trying to get funding and her building needs work. She asked if they have any funds to help small businesses with repairs.

Commissioner Green stepped out at 7:07 pm.

Chair NeSmith said they now have an Economic Development Director, Mr. Lewis, that encompasses every level of businesses. He asked Mr. Dixon if it was ok that they met. Mr. Dixon stated yes. Mr. Dixon asked if Chattahoochee had a CRA and Chair NeSmith said he did not think so.

Commissioner Hinson said every year they host different programs and resources at the County Courtyard square and asked her to get in contact with him.

Commissioner Hinson said American Rescue Plan gave money to cities and to check with Chattahoochee to see if they received money because it has to be spent by 2024.

Commissioner Simpkins said Franklin shared a Black Business Loan Program and the criteria is not as strenuous as other programs. Ms. Copeland stated she was not interested in loans, could not afford that.

Commissioner Holt said to get with Mr. Presnell and see the availability of state funding.

Commissioner Green returned at 7:15 pm.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

3. Public Hearing-Approval of Resolution 2023-027 and Year End Budget Amendments #1 for FY 2022-2023

Chair NeSmith announced this was a Public Hearing.

Mr. Dixon said this item seeks approval for Resolution 2023-027 to complete and execute all budget amendments necessary to maintain a balanced budget. Chair NeSmith asked if anyone wished to speak and there was no-one.

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

GENERAL BUSINESS

4. Approval of Agreement with Shelter Luv

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. This item is presented to the Board for approval of a service agreement with Shelter Luv for the Animal Control Department. Currently, the Animal Control Division needs a means to manage record keeping of animals and post pets online for owners to locate lost pets.

Commissioner Holt asked why it was \$2.00 and not \$5.00. Mr. Dixon stated that was what they charged them.

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

5. Approval of Resolution 2023-024 Grant Budget Amendments for FY 2023

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. This agenda item seeks Board approval of Resolution 2023-024 and 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 2023 BOCC budget.

Commissioner Green said he spoke with Housing in reference to the Grant. He asked if they have an estimate about how many projects that could serve. Mr. Dixon stated he will get one based on past performance how many they have served.

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

6. Approval of Resilient Florida Program Planning Grant Awards (Materials to be Provided)

Item Pulled

7. Approval of Proposal and Service Agreement with Johnson Controls

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. This agenda item is presented to the Board for approval of a Johnson Controls Proposal and Service Agreement for battery replacement in the fire alarm and troubleshooting Air Handler Shutdown process on the first floor in the W.A. Woodham Building.

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

8. Approval of AE COM, Inc. Task Orders for LAP Multi-Projects CEI

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. This agenda item seeks approval to execute Task Orders Addendum with AECOM, Inc. for the CEI Services of the Multi Local Agency Programs Projects.

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

9. Approval of Local Agency Program Supplemental Agreement for Iron Bridge Road and Strong Road

Mr. Dixon introduced above item. This agenda item seeks approval of the Local Agency Program Supplemental Agreement Addendum for Iron Bridge Road and Strong Road. Funds are being added due to the increase in the Resident Compliance Specialist – RCS Services. A subconsultant will be hired to complete the RCS Services. There will be an increase of \$178.20 for the Iron Bridge Road. The revised SA amount total will be \$655,490.00. There will also be an increase of \$178.20 for Strong Road. The revised SA amount total will be \$1,002,025.00. FDOT has allocated funding for the above reference project. There will be no fiscal impact to the County.

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

10. Approval of State Funded Grant Agreement (SCOP) for Fairbanks Ferry Road-2nd Phase

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. This item seeks Board approval of the State-Funded Grant Agreement for Fairbanks Ferry Road – 2nd phase. Fairbanks Ferry Road was selected for funding by FDOT through their SCOP program in the amount of \$169,653.00. There will be no fiscal impact to the County.

Commissioner Hinson said the first time, they had the road widened a little bit, and he asked if that would be included in the second phase. Mr. Young re-appeared and said yes, they were requesting for those paved shoulders to be widened.

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

11. Approval of State Funded Grant Agreement (SCOP) for Hardaway Highway

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. This agenda item seeks approval of the State-Funded Grant Agreement (SCOP) for Hardaway Highway in the amount of \$4,091,811.00. FDOT has allocated funding for this project.

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

12. Approval of State-Funded Grant Supplemental Agreement for Attapulgus Highway

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. This item seeks approval of the State-Funded Grant Supplemental Agreement for Attapulgus Highway in the amount of \$3,116,903.00. The agreement is being supplemented to reduce the limits of the project from 8.2 miles to 5.8 miles due to the bids received being substantially higher than what was awarded. The total cost of the project will be reduced to \$3,116,903.00 to account for construction cost adjustment. FDOT has allocated funding for this project.

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

13. Approval of CEI Agreement with AE Engineering, Inc. for Attapulgus Highway

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. This item seeks approval of the CEI Agreement with AE Engineering, Inc. for Attapulgus Highway at the rate of \$383,679.00. FDOT has allocated funding for CEI Services for this project.

Commissioner Hinson asked if that was standard. Mr. Dixon said all of that was laid out in the process.

Commissioner Simpkins said in the last meeting, she requested something to be tabled and the reason was that the Engineer was listed as the CEI for the same project and asked if it was normal procedure for them to charge to be both the CEI and paying additional fees for the same project? Mr. Dixon stated he thinks those charges were related to the development of the project. Commissioner Simpkins stated she was going to need clarity on the development. She wanted to know if it was normal for them to pay the CEI and also paying additional fees that they incur.

Commissioner Simpkins asked what was the normal as it relates to the engineers and the billing as it relates to the previous task order. Mr. Young said anything they do, they bill for it. Mr. Dixon said any vendor has the right to charge for the services they provide.

Commissioner Green asked regarding the previous company-Dewberry.

Commissioner Hinson asked how come this one project cost \$383,679.00. Mr. Dixon said the costs within these grants are tightly controlled by DOT. Dewberry served as CEI on many projects.

Commissioner Holt said they have had charges on the front-end and back-end of contracts. They have had Dewberry for a long time.

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

14. Approval of Bid Award and Construction Agreement with Roberts and Roberts, Inc. for Attapulgus Highway

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. This agenda item seeks Board approval to award the construction of the Attapulgus Highway resurfacing project to Roberts and Roberts, Inc. in the amount of \$2,733,224.00. The project will be funded from the FDOT SCOP agreement.

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

15. Approval of Mosquito Control Certified Budget and Detailed Work Plan Budget FY 2023-2024

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. This item seeks Board approval of the Mosquito Control Certified Budget and Detailed Work Plan Budget FY2023-2024. According to Florida Statutes, Chapter 388, the Public Works Department must apply to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for matching funds annually.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if they have mosquito control now? Mr. Dixon said the real answer is no but they hired someone with substantial knowledge but is not licensed in Florida.

Commissioner Green asked with this process in place, how long before they are able to provide services? Mr. Dixon said it depends on who they work with. They will look at how soon they can get someone on the floor. Commissioner Green stated mosquitos are year-round.

Commissioner Hinson asked how long have they been without an operator? Mr. Dixon stated about 1 year. Commissioner Hinson said they need to market this because it could be a serious situation, they have wild hogs all over place and mosquitos carry disease. He said maybe they need to advertise for this. Mr. Dixon said the position was advertised and filled.

Commissioner Holt said it was a two-edged sword; they did not want to overdo it because of pesticides.

Commissioner Hinson said to maybe look at how much they were paying. Also, now citizens have to call Public Works for spraying.

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

16. Approval of Settlement Agreement, Waiver and Release with Cynthia Roberts and Mas Allen Roberts

Mr. Knowles said this was the settlement agreement they had from the Shade meeting.

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

CLERK OF COURT

17. Updates

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

18. Updates

Mr. Dixon said they have before them the calendar with dates they have been able to confirm. The Legislative agenda for next year is due next month. If they have any ideas for programs, let them know.

Mr. Dixon stated they have a Strategic Planning meeting. The Governor asked to come over for a ground-breaking ceremony on the 24th. Fire service workshop will be held October 26th.

They need a workshop for Indigent Tax, Library, and HCA hospital.

Commissioner Hinson said they have Integrity and hired someone dealing with infrastructure and they need to hear from them every 2 months or quarterly.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

19. Updates

Nothing

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

20. Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2

Commissioner Simpkins stated they have had individuals present to the Board addressing different issues and requests; they told them they would be going into their budget. When they went into the budget, they did not address any of those issues like housing and assistance with housing. She stated she knew they had non-profits come forward and have organizations assisting constituents and would have additional funding if the County stepped in and they have not taken a look at that. She would like for them to address this. Commissioner Simpkins stated she was in Juvenile Court last week and they have a serious problem in this County. The Courtroom was full of their young people. She had a parent call and ask about drug programs for youth. They only have programs for adults. She stated they were crying out. She stated they need to address this issue on their troubled youth.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if legislative priorities were written by staff; would like to know prior to the 10th what their priorities are since they are not having a Board discussion regarding that. She noticed on the calendar that they have the Bicentennial Gala on November 4th and she has not seen any advertisement or tickets being sold. She would like to know who was selling the tickets and what the layout was for that.

Commissioner Simpkins stated, in the words of the Chair, One Gadsden, and the importance of unity, however, there is a divide. The County is working in silo. She received calls from different municipalities and was told there is a lack of trust as it relates to the County, and that was a serious problem. She was hearing it from Commissioners, Council members, and it needed to be addressed. She had a problem with requests not going through unless it was requested by the Chair. She stated she was elected by the people of District 2 and will do it with integrity.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she received invoices and they spent \$280 for a flyer. That is a problem. They are supposed to be good stewards of taxpayers' money. She stated it was a waste of taxpayer dollars and needs to be stopped. Commissioner Simpkins asked the Attorney what would be the reasoning for if they put an RFP out, and it does not reach the dais, and already gone through the process, why would it not come to the Board for approval. Mr. Knowles that could maybe happen if it was under the \$35,000 threshold, but the practice of the Board has been that all contracts come before the Board. He did not recall there being an RFP where it has not come before them, however, he could see a scenario where that bidder won, they submitted invoices that were under the \$35,000 threshold, but he did not think the Clerk would pay that. His experience was that the Board awards RFPs and RFQs. Commissioner Simpkins said it should have come in January 3rd for a bid and she did not see where there was any challenge to the bid. She stated she received an email from the Clerks' office in regard to contracts, and the fact that the RFP was put out, and they met on it, and someone won the bid. She asked the Administrator why it never came to them.

Mr. Dixon said he did not know what RFP Commissioner Simpkins was referring to. She said it was for the Graphic Design. She saw where it was sent back out again. Mr. Dixon stated that any time there were any questions like that, he would prefer to not answer it in public; it has to do with bidders and with what bidders submitted. However, this seems to have been coming for a while, so he wanted to shed a little light on it. He stated what Commissioner Simpkins saw was the last of 4 bids, he believed. They were regarding graphics and graphic services. He stated what she did not see was that their internal office let that bid 3 times. He stated they generally do not accept a single bid, however, after the third time and someone else won the bid, they were willing to advance the bid. That did not seem fair to him He asked that the bid be put out again and that the bid be managed by someone different. The person who has the contract now is alleging that the County, internally, has some bias against him. In order to be fair to both parties, they put the bid back out again and he will manage that process through.

Commissioner Simpkins said she was aware it was put out twice, there was only one bid the first time, and the second time there was 2 bids; there was not a formal challenge put in and that was why this was submitted to the Administrator. The person complained but did not put in a formal challenge.

Mr. Dixon stated, obviously, she spoke with the Assistant County Administrator. Commissioner Simpkins stated no she did not. Mr. Dixon stated he was more than aware of this process, he also understood that in order for the County to be fair, both parties have alleged misappropriate opportunities, and the only way to be fair is to be re-bid the situation.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she did not want him to assume she spoke with the Assistant County Administrator. She said she wanted the respect and she has been trying to maintain composure. She respects the County Administrator and expects the same from him. Even though they do not see eye to eye, she still expects respect.

Chair NeSmith said in his role as Chair, he has to provide respect to everyone and give ample opportunity to speak. He will not allow anyone to be disrespectful to anyone.

Commissioner Simpkins asked them to be fiscally responsible with their citizens funds and the \$280 for one flyer to be made was ridiculous.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt asked the County Administrator about the flyer. Mr. Dixon said he did not know what a flyer cost and would check with Ms. Daniels. They have an understanding with someone that does that, and they have tried to be careful with what goes out. The professional has a fee. If there were concerns with that fee, it will go out for bid. At some point, that fee was agreed to. He stated if they have an issue with the fee, they could try to limit the number of flyers they request from them.

Commissioner Holt said the reason she asked about that was because when they do make accusations, or bring up stuff in public, they need to be verified one way or another. She stated if there are specific concerns, they could bring those and they can workshop this.

Commissioner Holt mentioned going after economic development; they have not addressed it. They were trying to parcel out the money they already have and it is going to give out. They need to concentrate on the Economic Development side. She stated they have not done a job fair in so long. They need to be looking at what companies they could bring in that would suite their region. She stated she knew they are supposed to be a state that has a lot of tourism. What kind of tourism are you going to have in a small county? So, the job market is where they need to concentrate on. Commissioner Holt stated they have the legislative delegation coming.

She asked what are they going to ask them for that will help them get funding? So, these are the things that she thinks they need to talk about. She stated if they could work on these things, all the others will fall into place.

Commissioner Holt stated they were going to have to address these items between them and the Clerks' Office. Chair NeSmith said he and the Administrator have already started taking action. Mr. Dixon said if they would, he appreciates the support, but he did not think this helps. If they could give him and the Chair the opportunity to meet, he would appreciate not going to that level. Commissioner Holt said she has no problem with a conversation with the Clerk, but what she was saying, these things are more immediate. She stated they can look at the conversation, but at a certain point, there has to be action. She stated it was not unusual to have confrontations in public meetings. She and the Clerk have bumped heads in the past.

Commissioner Holt said they were not doing a bad job, but on the economic development side, they were not getting an 'A' on that. She stated kids need jobs; they need an Economic Development plan to invite those companies in. They need to get on a bus and go to Columbus, MS and see what they are doing in industrial development.

Chair NeSmith said they all had input as to which workshops they wanted. If someone had stated that they needed to go in a different direction, they would have heard that. Also, they have the legislative delegation coming up. They can talk about everything to do with economic development. He stated they have strategic planning coming up on Monday the 9th. They have the opportunity to bring up economic development there as well.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5

Commissioner Green said he had a very interesting conversation with the Economic Development Director and encouraged everyone to do the same. They have someone who will listen to their concerns. He wanted to make sure they give him the opportunity to meet and speak about this.

This month is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and they need to encourage everyone to get tested, including men. Commissioner Green thanked the Administration for getting their packets in a timely manner.

Commissioner Green stated he sent the Administrator pictures as it related to Shiloh Church; the limbs and trees they are requesting to be attended to. He was not sure if it was County property and not sure if they have had the time to address that situation so he could provide the Church with answers. Mr. Dixon said he has not as of yet gotten back with him with any information. He stated they will probably be able to get him more information tomorrow. Commissioner Green stated the Church also had a complaint about the bus stop sign that is no longer in use in that area.

Commissioner Green asked for a follow-up on Serenity Land. They had a constituent come and ask about information for Serenity Lane. Mr. Dixon asked Mr. Young if he had any information. Mr. Young said not yet.

Commissioner Green asked, if possible, he would like the opportunity to take a ride through District 5 with Public Works. They have roads that are holding water during the rainy season. Mr. Dixon stated he believed that was one of the areas in the legislative agenda that they have not addressed.

Commissioner Green asked for updates as it related to Boys and Girls Club. Mr. Dixon stated they have met with the party and had very interesting talks. They will see if they could bring something back for the Commissioners.

Commissioner Green stated he had the opportunity to visit 2 senior centers this week. They had guests there giving vital information regarding wills and the center was packed. He stated they should do a Town Hall meeting in those senior centers.

Commissioner Green stated he asked a while back about Social Security services and they did not have a building in Gadsden County, what were they doing to make sure those needs were being fulfilled? Mr. Dixon said they were reviewing all options with Social Security. They believed in the Zoom services they were giving; however, they were looking at every opportunity to kind of stabilize that and to create a central place for folk who may not Zoom.

TJ Lewis, Economic Development Director, said he has been researching on 2 projects in Havana and Chattahoochee. The total is \$6 Million. The application is due on October 5th.

Commissioner Green mentioned Ranch Road and asked the County Administrator if he got any information about that project. He saw some land clearing and had a citizen in that area to call and ask what was going because they did not receive a public notice. He said it was towards Ranch Road near the Apalachee Center. Mr. Dixon said he put that in with the Building Inspector and will have an answer for him tomorrow.

Commissioner Green thanked Commissioner Simpkins for bringing up the juvenile situation. He stated it was a great opportunity for them to reach out with all of their Law Enforcement partners and County Judge. He stated it was not a problem just for the Board but the County as a whole.

Mr. Dixon said he meant to say that in given what the Board directed and what they are hearing, they have begun re-creation of the Public Service Coordinating committee made up of the Judges, State Attorney, Public Defender. They were looking at how to set up that Board and

infuse it with money for programming. They create programs, but in a silo. With the Public Service Coordinating Committee, they create those programs in front of those folk and those folk have input into those programs. There are 2 programs out there now that have been in touch with the Circuit Administration, who is looking at reviving mental health court and doing something with Juveniles because of addiction. Mr. Dixon stated on last Thursday, they met with the Sheriff's Office and the Sheriff's Office has invited DCF and Florida State Hospital. The Sheriff has been made aware of a grant and as soon as they finish writing it up, it will come before the Board because the Jail belongs to the Board of County Commissioners. That program potentially is about \$6 million. He stated the Sheriff is attempting to set up a rehabilitation opportunity for those who with substance abuse and mental health situations. The basis of this program is not only to get them into a program that will help them, but to provide services after the fact. Now, they need a program prevention wise.

Commissioner Green stated it was Homecoming for their only public High School, Gadsden County High, on Friday and there is a parade at 4:00 pm. He asked for participation.

Commissioner Eric Hinson, Vice-Chair, District 1

Commissioner Hinson said "idle mind is devil's workshop". They need to make sure kids are in vocational training in 8th, 9th, and 10th grade.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 9:14 pm.

Commissioner Hinson stated they had 240 People in jail and they put in place a work program. Mr. Dixon said that was the program they are looking to supersize.

Commissioner Hinson said he voted against going to Mississippi because they were dealing with COVID at that time. He stated another place they need to go to is St. Petersburg.

Commissioner Holt returned 9:17

Commissioner Hinson asked the Chairman to look into how much money they received for opioids in the County.

Commissioner Hinson mentioned that the Havana Carver Heights/Havana Projects did not allow residents to drive in; they put chains to prevent it. Now, they have bars around the facility so kids cannot play outside.

Commissioner Hinson stated on October 7, One Gadsden Foundation is partnering with school board member Cathy Johnson and Pastor Jones. The second harvest will be at the old North Havana High School.

Commissioner Hinson thanked the Gadsden County Athletic Hall of Fame and said he appreciated his coaches.

Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, Chair, District 3

Chair NeSmith stated he received a package from Robbie Jones and asked if there was something he wanted to present? Mr. Dixon stated he would come and talk about the wild hogs.

Robbie Jones appeared before the Board to speak on wild hogs. He stated October is Peanut Butter Challenge month.

Mr. Jones said they had a meeting with USDA and IFAS regarding trapping pigs and would be more advantageous to partner with them. They will bring trapper to handle traps and will euthanize them. He stated they cannot kill nor eat the pigs. 20% of wild hogs carry different diseases. They need to be taken to a respected processing facility to make sure they have no disease.

Commissioner Green asked if there was an estimate cost on the services. Mr. Jones stated it was between \$100-200,000. Commissioner Green asked if there was any grant funding. Mr. Jones stated they were in the season for re-writing the farm bill, so if there is money put federally into the farm bill for trapping again, there could be that chance to get funding but that money has been exhausted from the last farm bill.

Commissioner Green asked if it was something they could ask for from their legislature. Mr. Dixon said he did not see why not.

Commissioner Hinson said what he was told was that the legislature put a lot of interest in killing bears. They had 20 hogs on his parent's road.

Chair NeSmith asked the Commissioners to submit their representatives' names for the Parks and Recreation Boards.

Chair NeSmith stated the Gadsden Hospital, Inc. has several vacancies. They have sent out advertisement for persons to volunteer on that Board.

Commissioner Holt left at 9:35 pm.

Commissioner Hinson said he thought the Board dissolved Gadsden Hospital, Inc. He stated that the previous Board they had voted to give all power to Capitol Regional Hospital. They need to look at the contract first before they start talking about this.

Chair NeSmith stated they need to start working on the Summer Youth Program now and not wait until Spring. He stated they were understaffed. They need to organize the program now because quantity does not guarantee quality.

Chair NeSmith mentioned non-profit organizations and stated they needed to have a workshop.

Chair NeSmith thanked the Administrator, Staff and Ms. Fryson for help with the cleaning supplies in Chattahoochee.

Commissioner Green wanted to make sure when they have the workshop, that they have different categories for non-profits. There are some that have a 501c3 and did not want to do anything.

Commissioner Green provided a green light moment:

“One of the marvelous things in our community is that it enables us to welcome and help people...”

RECEIPT AND FILE

21. Florida Commerce: State Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Competitive Florida Partnership Grant

MOTION TO ADJOURN

WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 9:58 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

KIMBLIN NESMITH, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A STRATEGIC PLANNING
WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS IN
AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY,
FLORIDA ON OCTOBER 9, 2023
AT 3:30 PM, THE FOLLOWING
PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Kimblin NeSmith, Chair, District 3
Eric Hinson, Vice-Chair, District 1
Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2
Brenda Holt, District 4
Ronterious “Ron” Green, District 5
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk
Adriana Quijada, Secretary to the Boards

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair NeSmith started the workshop at 3:34 pm. Commissioner Green provided invocation. Chair NeSmith led into the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD (3-Minute Limit)

The Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners welcomes and encourages public participation at all meetings of the Board. Citizens are free to speak for up to three (3) minutes on non-agenda items. Public comments and participation are also encouraged for items on the agenda. Additionally, if you are unable to attend a meeting in person, comments from the Public can also be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until noon on the date of the meeting. Comments submitted after the deadline, but prior to the meeting, will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting. Citizens are further encouraged to participate via Zoom using the credentials on the County’s website. The Board’s meetings are also broadcast live on the Board’s Facebook page.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- 1.** Ms. Gabrielli stated they will start a team building activity. She passed the activity ball around to people to introduce themselves and answer a question from the ball.

Ms. Gabrielli started with a “Pipeline to Success Teambuilding Activity”.

Ms. Gabrielli explained what is strategic planning and also mentioned the Census.

Commissioner Holt arrived at 4:09 pm.

Discussion of Outcomes from 2021 Strategic Planning

- Mission, Vision, Values
- Strategic Planning
- Goals

Ms. Gabrielli stated a mission statement should clearly define the purpose of the organization as well as products and services that are offered.

Current Mission Statement: “Building a more sustainable community by improving health, education, infrastructure, economic development, safety, and overall quality of life.

Vision Statement is a statement about what your organization wants to become.

Current Vision Statement: “The model community of excellence globally”.

Values: Values are beliefs that are shared among the stakeholders of an organization.

Ms. Gabrielli went through the priorities of the County.

Goals – specific accomplishments that must be achieved in total.

Commissioner Green asked how often these should be changed. Ms. Gabrielli stated one to 2 years is a good time frame.

Chair stated building sustainable community through economic development.

Commissioner Holt asked before they change anything, to look at the goals.

Ms. Gabrielli went through the 2021/ 2022 goals.

Commissioner Holt asked if had they had a health plan. Mr. Dixon stated since then, access has changed. Before, doctors were not going to telehealth. Since the pandemic, it is the new and best thing. Envisioning Telehealth centers.

Commissioner Green stated they have not really agreed to anything; they need to come up with a solution. He asked if they were working with other health departments and physicians.

Mr. Dixon stated they had a dialogue; the health department is really caught up in politics of the day. Commissioner Green asked how would they come up with plan if there were no experts.

Commissioner Simpkins stated looking at their outlining areas, what truly are reasons for citizens not going to doctor. She stated there was a high percentage of uninsured. How do they get there to be insured? What role could they play to help? She stated it goes beyond just looking at the one clinic and that particular area. They need to look at those numbers and citizens in that area and how many were not seeing doctors because they are uninsured or was there another reason for them not going to the doctor. She stated they need to look at Telehealth. They need to look at the County as a whole, especially unincorporated areas. Commissioner Holt stated they need to look at a plan and say yay or nay. The health department cannot answer anything unless the government says so.

Commissioner Simpkins stated there were a couple events bringing citizens in and she questioned them as to why they do not go to the doctor. A lot of it was because of trust issues.

She said they need a health clinic on the west side. They need to look at the healthcare plan as a whole, and look at how to increase health equity in the County.

Mr. Dixon stated they need them all, that was reality. They need a federally qualified health center.

Chair NeSmith stated that was a major issue and Commissioners have a brilliant input. Healthcare has a lot of moving parts. There are limitations with the health department. They need to bring in a Coordinator.

Commissioner Simpkins stated her concern was could they afford to form another department. Chair NeSmith stated they need to locate the resources to coordinate healthcare.

Commissioner Green stated it would be good to ask the legislator for assistance on forming this department.

Ms. Gabrielli added in a new goal of hiring a Director of Health Administration.

Commissioner Simpkins asked what that position looks like; she did not want to rush this. She stated it needs to serve purpose and make sure the Board decides what that position should entail.

Commissioner Green stated no for setting that goal to January 1. He stated they would need more time. Chair NeSmith asked what was a good time frame. Commissioner Green stated Spring. Commissioner Green recommended to add to that workshop and go from there. Ms. Gabrielli said for them to start that workshop as soon as possible.

Commissioner Holt said she said January 1 for the goal because of the legislative session.

Ms. Gabrielli asked about the date for the goal. March 1? Commissioner Holt stated January 1.

Commissioner Simpkins stated they were in October now, and some are traveling and they have the holidays. She did not see January 1 working. Commissioner Green would like to determine the date during the workshop.

Commissioner Hinson arrived at 5:05 pm.

Commissioner Simpkins stated the physician would handle the health care plan.

Commissioner Hinson stated they were a fiscally constrained County. They need to maximize what they have already.

Commissioner Simpkins asked about the funding for the public safety coordinating council.

They changed the word 'fund' to 'reconvene' under Public Safety Coordinating Council.

Ms. Gabrielli asked if they had any updates on combating homelessness. Mr. Dixon stated no.

Commissioner Green stated he did not think they have an overpopulation of homelessness. He asked how would they find these people to have numbers.

Commissioner Simpkins stated they have homeless problems in her district and it would be a priority for her. Mental health plays a part with homelessness in some ways.

Chair NeSmith asked if they have a section within the housing department that does research on homelessness. Commissioner Green stated it was important if they could get some numbers. Ms. Gabrielli stated there is a lot more homelessness than they think.

Chair NeSmith asked if they had a way to collect data.

Commissioner Holt stated maybe Public Safety would know about collecting data. Also mentioned the school system having data.

Commissioner Simpkins stated data is available. Big Bend has data.

Commissioner Simpkins stated there are individuals out there currently working with the homeless. The Commissioners have not responded to them and it should be a top priority.

Commissioner Hinson stated they need to go to St. Pete and see how they handle mental health.

Mr. Dixon stated they attempted to address the food desert. The County has donated funding to second harvest.

Ms. Gabrielli mentioned the Economic Development plan. Mr. Lewis stated they added another for \$500,000.

They added 'inventory of County owned property being conducted' under Research Transitional Housing. The date was set for 3/1/2024.

Commissioner Hinson stated they have a lot of seniors that have a lot of land and kids. The code hurts the community. They need to look at the land development code.

Mr. Dixon stated they ran the Summer Youth program for a couple years. They met with the school district. He stated they will meet in November to start talking about the program. How they could get kids on the entrepreneur program.

Commissioner Holt stated they need to look at a County and School Board meeting.

Commissioner Simpkins stated it was important to meet with the schools, but they need to make sure they were bringing in business partners as well. They need to make sure they are focusing on repairs, maintenance.

Ms. Gabrielli mentioned the feasibility study for the Gadsden County Community College. Commissioner Hinson stated to change the date to October 2024.

They also changed the date for implementing bike trails to September 2024.

They moved the date for assisting in promoting minority farmers in Gadsden County to March 2024.

Ms. Gabrielli mentioned the goal of paving up to 5 miles of dirt road each year. Mr. Dixon stated it was not really going anywhere; they have no funding to pave dirt roads. The date was changed to 9/30/2024 for paving dirt roads.

Ms. Gabrielli mentioned the goal of adding private dirt roads of at least 5 miles into the public maintenance system. They changed the date to 9/30/24.

Ms. Gabrielli mentioned the goal of providing broadband access to everyone in the County. The date was changed to 1/1/25.

The goal of getting all 4 I-10 interchanges ready for economic growth. Mr. Lewis stated they submitted a feasibility grant of \$500K.

The goal of conducting feasibility plan for new I-10 interchange at Highbridge Rd and Hwy 65. The date was set for 9/30/2024.

They mentioned the review and revise of all County Ordinances. They changed the title to 'review and revise outdated County Ordinances'. Changed year to 2024. Many ordinances were revised including alcohol, church development, board rules.

The goal of conducting a feasibility study for the new county administration and courthouse complex. There is an Architect on board; they were working on the ability to fund a feasibility study.

The goal of enhancing the public transportation system. They changed the date to 9/30/2024.

The goal of updating the transportation element of the comprehensive plan with detailed needs related to county roads and bridges. Mr. Stiell stated they received grant from FDOC, they were working to revise transportation element ARPC. The date was changed to 1/1/25.

The goal of improving street lighting throughout county - in progress. The date was changed to year 2024.

The goal of improving street lights within communities and neighborhoods – Commissioner Hinson stated they could look at the costs first.

The goal of evaluating existing parks for access, safety – In progress. The date was changed to 2024.

The goal in increasing access for trails and parks – Date changed to 2024.

The goal of meeting or exceeding water quality standards – Mr. Dixon stated to change that title to ‘continue to meet and exceed water quality standards by working with partners Water Mgmt. District, Talquin, and Municipalities.

The goal of overhaul comprehensive plan – the date was changed to 2025.

The goal of providing access to and promote lakes and rivers – Ms. Steele stated their first event is in December.

Commissioner Holt stated Talquin is its own government. She stated they needed sewer lines and Talquin did not want to provide it. They had to apply for CCBG grants.

Commissioner Green stated the mission statement was fine how it is to him.

They changed the mission statement to show more focus on economic development.

Adjournment

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH DECLARED THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED AT 7:53 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk.

AT A VAB PETITION HEARING OF THE
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY,
FLORIDA ON OCTOBER 10, 2023 AT
12:15 P.M., THE FOLLOWING
PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

Present: ERIC HINSON, County Commissioner
 CATHY JOHNSON, School Board Representative
 CHRISY SHORTER-ARNOLD, Real Property Representative
 FREDERICA YOUNG, Commercial Property Representative
 LOUIS J. BAPTISTE, VAB Attorney
 MARCELLA BLOCKER, Deputy Clerk
 ADRIANA QUIJADA, Deputy Clerk

1. Call to Order

Chair Hinson started meeting at 12:20 pm. The Board introduced themselves.

Mr. Baptiste made his opening statement.

Chair Hinson read the segment of rights.

4. Holland M. Ware –

No one present on behalf of the Holland M. Ware Petition, turned over to Property Appraiser.

Reginald Cunningham, called Ms. Fletcher to address the Holland Ware petition.

Lindsey Fletcher appeared. Mr. Baptiste stated to admit it to evidence. The Board voted 4-0.

Ms. Shorter-Arnold asked if they submitted evidence. Ms. Fletcher stated no.

5. William and Cathy Farr 564 Middle Creek Rd-

Mr. Baptiste asked if anyone was present for petition of William and Cathy Farr.

William and Cathy Farr appeared.

Mr. Brown appeared to present case. Request to submit evidence.

Commissioner NeSmith appeared at 12:49 pm.

Cathy Farr appeared before the Board. Gave brief overview of issues in her house.

William Farr appeared. Mr. Baptiste asked if they requested in writing any specific evidence from petitioner. Property Appraiser stated yes, asked for all evidence.

Mr. Baptiste asked the Chair to accept exhibit.

Mr. Farr stated their property is overvalued. They are on fixed income. Land value should be less.

Cathy Farr stated they wanted to move to this area. It took them 2 years and all of their savings. As a self-governing county, they are able to make the decisions.

Mr. Brown stated he would like to submit to evidence the package provided.

Mr. Farr stated the property value went up, doubling it did not make sense to him.

Cathy Farr asked about comp.

Ms. Shorter- Arnold stated it would not be considered new sales. New to her would be in the last 90 days.

Ms. Farr asked about square footage. Mr. Brown stated they looked at the exterior of the house.

Ms. Young asked about their acres and how many were considered low elevation

Ms. Young asked about the mile radius for comp 3.

Mr. Brown stated the Farr's were valued at fair market rate.

Mr. Farr provided closing statement.

Next scheduled meeting on 10/17/2023 for final decision

6. Recess

**UPON MOTION BY CHAIR HINSON AND SECOND BY CATHY JOHNSON, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0
BY VOICE VOTE TO RECESS THIS MEETING AT 2:01 PM.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**ERIC HINSON, Chair
Value Adjustment Board**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON OCTOBER 17, 2023 AT 6:00 PM,
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

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

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair NeSmith called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. He asked Commissioner Hinson for the Invocation and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

Amendments and Approval of Agenda

Mr. Dixon asked to amend the agenda with the addition of Item 18a-Approval of Gadsden County Legislative Priorities.

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

Awards, Presentations and Appearances

CONSENT

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

1. **Ratification Memo**
2. **BOCC Meeting/Workshop Minutes:**
 - a. **August 8, 2023 Workshop**
 - b. **August 23, 2023 Housing & Bond Workshop**
 - c. **September 5, 2023 BCC Meeting**
 - d. **September 6, 2023 Intergovernmental Workshop**
 - e. **September 12, 2023 Budget Hearing**
 - f. **September 18, 2023 Budget Workshop**
 - g. **September 19, BCC Meeting**

3. **Approval of the Annual Contract between the GC BOCC and the Florida Department of Health for the operations of the Gadsden County Health Department**
4. **Approval of Required Training for Gadsden County Sheriff's Office TeamOne SWAT Operator**
5. **Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Liens and Rehabilitation Contract-State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) and Gadsden Emergency Repair Program**
6. **Approval of Appointment to the CareerSource Capital Region Board**
7. **Approval of FY 2024 SC408 Small County Consolidate Waste Grant Agreement with Florida Department of Environmental Protection**
8. **Approval of Barineau Road over Willacoochee Creek Bridge Rehabilitation Agreement**
9. **Approval of CR 161A Dogtown Road Widening and Resurfacing Agreement**
10. **Approval of Bunker Gear Purchase**
11. **Approval of Agreement between Lexipool, LLC and Gadsden County Emergency Management Services**
12. **Approval of Board of County Commissioners 2024 Holiday Schedule**
13. **Consideration and approval of a Resolution in Support of the Florida Department of Transportation Shared-Use Nonmotorized Trail (SUN Trail) Grant application for the proposed Tallahassee to Havana Multi-Use Trail Project Design and authorization for the County to be the Willing Manager**
14. **Consideration and approval of a Resolution in Support of the Florida Department of Transportation Shared-Use Nonmotorized Trail (SUN Trail) Grant application for the proposed US 90 West Multi-Use Trail Project for a feasibility study and agreement for the County to be the Willing Manager**
15. **Approval to Accept Grant Award from Department of Financial Services**

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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Mr. Dixon read the above statement aloud.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

16. Approval of Resolution 2023-033 Grant Budget Amendments for FY 2023

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval of Resolution 2023-033 for Grant Budget Amendments and for authorization for the Assistant County Administrator and the Finance Director to complete and execute all budget amendments necessary to maintain a balanced budget for the FY 2023 BOCC budget.

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

17. Approval of CRTPA Appointments

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was presented to the board for approval of a representative to the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency and an alternate. Chair NeSmith asked commissioner Hinson if he would allow him to continue as designee and Commissioner Hinson agreed.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR CHAIR NESMITH TO SERVE AS THE PRIMARY REPRESENTATIVE FOR CRTPA AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

18. Approval of County Administrator Contract

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. This agenda item seeks approval to renew the Employee Agreement for the Gadsden County Administrator.

Mr. Knowles said on Section 3, the second paragraph would be removed but he could serve on prior approved boards of non-profits.

Chair NeSmith said he wanted to make sure they were looking at a contract for the position and not the person.

There were comments from Commissioner Green concerning the amount of the salary and it was stated that Ms. Maas was the one that suggested the amount after reviewing the County Administrator salaries from seven other counties. She said \$148,000 was the average of the salaries.

Commissioner Simpkins said with the salary, have to look at the benefits also. When they look at some of the compared counties such as Key West, that is a totally different ballgame and they have a much higher budget than Gadsden County. She did not think they should have been on the average.

Ms. Maas said when they were originally given the assignment, they reached out to FAC. They assemble information every other year and did not have current year's data. They were included because it was a similar population but their budget is much higher than ours.

Ms. Holt said she even called some counties and did not know that some administrators were making more than ours and they were in the county. She had no problem for paying for the work, but has a problem when the work is not done.

Chair NeSmith said had issue with automatic roll-over with contract. No administrator would allow the contract to expire without it coming before the Board. Mr. Dixon stated he had no problem with removing the automatic roll-over.

Commissioner Simpkins said it was their responsibility to read the contracts and be aware of when the contracts expire as they only had two employees, the Administrator and the Attorney. Commissioner Green said they need to take the automatic renewal out but keep the 90 days. Commissioner Holt said their only concern was getting the position filled if they had to. Mr. Dixon said he could only presume the statement was about stability and making a smooth transition.

Commissioner Hinson said he thought, not only with the County Administrator, the Administrator should give 6 months' notice when contracts expire.

Commissioner Green wanted to make sure they understood that the 90 days was for contractual renewal; the Administrator works at the will of the Board.

Commissioner Holt said she was ready to vote. When it comes to contracts, that was the legal side.

Commissioner Simpkins said her concern was dealing with Section 9. Chair NeSmith said they were going through each section.

Commissioner Hinson said if not mistaken, that was why they have Human Resources. Their job is to do that and they have to entrust they will be trustworthy and do their job. Commissioner Green concurred and agreed with Commissioner Hinson as it related to Human Resources.

Commissioner Hinson stated for them to be notified 6 months prior to the contract ending. That way, they have enough time to advertise and interview.

Commissioner Simpkins said when looking at the termination conditions and severance pay; agreeing to pay a full year if they terminate.

Ms. Maas reappeared before the Board. She stated she could look through the copies of the other contracts that she has and let her know which counties had the same situation. The additional is the severance for the executive compensation. Commissioner Simpkins said it stated that whoever shall receive his salary and benefits for 20 weeks as severance payable in accordance with the county's bi-weekly pay schedule, and be paid for 6 months of additional annual leave. If terminated, shall be paid up to 480 hours for his unused annual leave balance.

Ms. Maas stated it was time that they have earned, and that is why it is capped. It is 25% of sick leave for regular employees. She stated it was not uncommon.

Mr. Dixon said Commissioner Green alluded to it earlier that these are high risk employment opportunities. They do not require a reason to terminate him.

Commissioner Simpkins stated with the 6 months and then half of the sick leave, that was almost a year. She stated it was not favorable to the County for them to also do 20 weeks as severance.

Commissioner Hinson thought if it was ok with everyone, they go with the 20 weeks' severance and they could bring this back again.

Commissioner Holt said Commissioner Greens suggestion was to remove the 6 months and would move for approval.

Ms. Maas said this was existing language. She suggested to tie that to length of service for the County Administrator.

Derrick Elias, 233 Cheeseborough Avenue, Quincy, appeared before the Board. He said it appeared that they might want to table this for right now and get the changes in place so they knew what they were voting on. He asked what the current salary was for the Administrator.

Ms. Maas appeared and said the current annual salary was \$105,000.

Mr. Elias said what they were voting on was an increase to \$140,000. He asked if there has been an evaluation. Chair NeSmith stated yes. He asked does the position warrant \$140,000 or does the person holding the position warrant \$140,000.

Chair NeSmith said with regard to the Counties they used, three years ago they used surrounding counties and now they were using Counties in southwest Florida.

Ms. Maas reappeared before the Board. She said they went to the FAC report that is done every other year and tried to get as close as they could. She said the County Administrator's salary has been lower than it should be for quite some time.

Commissioner Green said he believed the City of Quincy salary was \$115,000, the City of Midway is \$121,000 and Gretna was \$105,000. He added this was city managers compared to county administrator.

Ms. Maas said the City of Quincy was \$120,000. In order to stay competitive, they have to have a good salary number.

Mr. Elias said he was not here to fight against the contract. Three years ago, when they went through the same process, their rationale was totally different. He said to portion in the contract where they wanted the Administrator to give a 6 months' notice, if they do not give that, what was their recourse. He asked what the budget was that was approved for the position.

Chair NeSmith said they were asking that 6 months prior to the expiration, the Board be notified. Their goal was not for it to be punitive. Mr. Elias asked what was the purpose of being notified if there is no recourse. Chair NeSmith stated they were not looking for a recourse, they were looking for notification. Mr. Elias asked what was the budget for the County Administrator's position.

Ms. Daniels appeared before the Board and said they were unsure what the negotiated contract would be so they included a figure of \$150,000 for the purpose of the budget. Mr. Elias said he thought it would be prudent for them to have a completed contract before them before they voted.

Commissioner Holt said that was why it was put online, so the public can see. It was not like the County was trying to hide anything. She said she put a motion in to remove the 6 months additional leave time, 20 weeks of severance pay, 480 hours of unused annual leave, and ½ unused sick leave.

Commissioner Simpkins said for the record, as it relates to the contract, she has problem with the increase of \$135,000 and with the counties that were chosen to compare.

Commissioner Green said when they have a commissioner say they have a problem with a number, how can they go negotiate a number.

Commissioner Holt said to vote up or down.

Commissioner Hinson asked for clarification of the motion. Commissioner Holt said the motion is to approve the contract, 20 weeks' severance pay, 480 hours unused annual leave, and ½ unused sick leave, and inclusion of 6 months' notice from the Administrator.

Commissioner Hinson asked if the paying for ½ of the unused sick leave was also in the last contract. Mr. Knowles said the number of hours is unique to the individual, the ½ of unused sick was ¼ of unused sick and he was offered ½; 480 was statutory. He was not entitled to severance pay if fired.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if they could provide what the total compensation package would be. Ms. Maas said in dollars and could provide it later, she did not bring a calculator with her.

Commissioner Hinson said for future reference, they need to be prepared. When he was with the School Board, they had figures in front of them when talking about the budget.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONTRACT WITH A 6 MONTHS NOTICE FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR, 20 WEEKS OF SEVERANCE PAY, 480 HOURS OF UNUSED ANNUAL LEAVE, ½ UNUSED SICK LEAVE, AND THE REMOVAL OF THE 6 MONTHS ADDITIONAL LEAVE TIME. COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS OPPOSED.

18a. Review and Approval of the 2024 Gadsden County Legislative Priorities

Mr. Dixon said they have the review and approve of the legislative priorities.

Commissioner Hinson said he thought it would be fair to the Board to have a meeting to bring ideas in. He thought they needed to go after infrastructure.

Chair NeSmith said he would like to approach this and have had the opportunity to meet with the Administrator and was in support of these items. This was not exclusive. Commissioner Hinson said whatever was coming from the Board is what they would look at.

Commissioner Simpkins stepped out at 7:39 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson thought they needed to shorten the list to a few projects that they could get and go after certain projects.

Commissioner Green said he also had a chance to speak with the Administrator and there was \$7 Million of infrastructure and would like Commissioner Hinson to have a chance to meet with the Administrator. He asked if they had to vote on this tonight.

Commissioner Simpkins returned at 7:41 p.m.

Mr. Dixon said the earliest due date is November 1st and they do not meet before that date. He stated they do need to be on the same page together and as things come through from cities, they will knock things off and narrow the list.

Commissioner Green said it was good to have a start but wanted to make sure every Commissioner had an opportunity to speak with the Administrator before submittal.

Commissioner Hinson said he has been talking back and forth with the Administrator forever. They need to meet and hold a conversation collectively.

Chair NeSmith said they have to have this to legislative delegation by November 1. He stated they could call a special meeting. He asked Commissioner Hinson if he could provide a list. If they work with cities, they will come together as one.

Commissioner Simpkins said they have a meeting on the 26th for fire services, she asked could they come earlier by an hour and meet with municipalities. Commissioner Hinson said they needed more time than an hour. Chair NeSmith asked if 2 hours was enough time.

Mr. Dixon said the City of Greensboro asked they include their City Hall and Fire Station to the County's submissions.

Commissioner Hinson asked why not have the meeting on Monday. The fire meeting will be very intense and why not meet Monday.

Commissioner Holt said back to the timeline, they scheduled meetings before every meeting and commissioners did not show up. Chair NeSmith asked what was convenient to the Board

and Commissioner Hinson said to meet on Monday, 30th. Commissioner Holt said they could add on to it after being submitted. Chair NeSmith said to schedule this for Monday.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 7:56 p.m.

Commissioner Green asked Commissioner Hinson how about when they bring this and go through it, then they can say yay or nay.

Commissioner Simpkins said November 14 at 5:00 p.m. is the deadline.

Chair NeSmith said to Ms. Daniels that they wanted to have a special meeting on Monday at 4:00.

CLERK OF COURT

19. Updates

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

20. Updates

Ms. Daniels said nothing from the Administrator, he stepped out.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

21. Updates

Nothing unless questions.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

22. Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2

Commissioner Simpkins said this month is Breast Cancer Awareness and they needed to recognize survivors and encourage women to get mammograms. She was glad to see work start on the railroad on Shady Rest Road.

Commissioner Simpkins would like them to take a look at back door services for Waste Pro for some of the citizens that cannot get to the road. She also wanted to make sure they were still working on parks.

Commissioner Simpkins also stated on Saturday October 21st, DJ Trucker will be holding a trail ride again.

She mentioned that she listened to a sermon on Sunday that said “when isolated you’re missing out on what others may have to offer, so it’s important for us to work together”.

Commissioner Hinson said they need to schedule a meeting with Waste Pro and address their issues.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt said next Saturday will be Robertsville Day.

She stated she would like to be put on the next agenda the Attorney contract and it be brought up for vote.

Commissioner Holt stated she was in favor of Items 12 and 13 but if employees were to take care of that, they may need to hire more people.

She was hoping to get together with Star Metro on providing transportation, especially to Amazon in Tallahassee.

Commissioner Holt stated she made sure she told some people to be careful when driving. She had a lady ask for the County to pay for her car because she ran over a board in the road.

Commissioner Holt mentioned that she was invited to the White House to do a presentation on Thursday and asked what else they needed.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5

Commissioner Green thanked Commissioner Simpkins for mentioning Breast Cancer and wanted to mention that on the 8th, there will be the annual breast cancer walk from Piggly Wiggly to the Courthouse.

He said he would like if the Board would consider being in FAMU’s parade.

Commissioner Green mentioned Drake Acres and asked if they could they get striping or have Public Works look at the road.

Commissioner Green thanked Public Works for the work done on Shiloh Road.

Commissioner Green asked about Trunk or Treat. Ms. Daniels said the Board would be participating at one held at the Ward’s Lot.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned there is a Trunk or Trat taking place in Havana as well and wanted to make sure was represented.

Commissioner Eric Hinson, Vice-Chair, District 1

Commissioner Hinson echoed what Commissioner Simpkins said, they need presence there. He mentioned Deacon Madry passed away, and called him the “praying guy”.

Commissioner Hinson also echoed what Commissioner Simpkins and Commissioner Green said and felt they should have a “Pink Out Day” in the County for Breast Cancer Awareness.

Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, Chair, District 3

Chair NeSmith needed support for recognizing Marcus Green. Green second 5-0

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

Chair NeSmith wanted to mention Chris Daniels and Colonel Collins with the Sheriff’s Department in the audience. He asked them to stand and say hello.

Commissioner Hinson said he had an opportunity to call a young man up who started doing business like building homes and he wanted to recognize Shontell Rittman.

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

Chair NeSmith stated the Love Where you Live Campaign is now active in District 3 and they will be picking up bulky items on the 16th – 19th.

Chair NeSmith congratulated Commissioner Holt, who will be representing Gadsden County in Washington, DC.

Chair NeSmith stated the Attorney reminded him of claims and legal issues. They have had a number of claims and legal issues withing the last couple of years. There is something called risk management and they need to know where the legal issues are coming from. He stated the Attorney was working on this.

Chair NeSmith mentioned the Summer Youth Program and stated they cannot wait until February or March to start talking about it. They need to start determining now what they want the program to look like so that they can arm the county with the resources needed.

Commissioner Holt said she forgot to mention that a few weeks ago, a couple groups were given money. She stated others have asked about that and she told them to come before the

Board to present. She stated there were no stipulations there. Commissioner Holt also said that Commissioner Simpkins mentioned on Saturday the County will make money on taxes on gas from the concert and they are not sponsoring it as a commission. They should be a sponsor. She stated how are they going to get people into the County to purchase products and buy gas. Chair NeSmith asked if there was a reason why the County was not working with them. Commissioner Holt said the County needs to make sure they approach them. Commissioner Holt said if they are having the event, to give them \$20,000 and Commissioner Simpkins second.

Chair NeSmith said he has been consistent with non-profits and entities. If they have an organization that is coming into Gadsden County and they are going to assist them with economic development, that is awesome, and he would support it. Commissioner Holt stated she was not talking about nonprofit she was talking about gas taxes and the taxes they would get from the event.

Commissioner Simpkins stepped out at 8:36 p.m.

Commissioner Simpkins returned at 8:37 p.m.

Commissioner Holt asked Ms. Steele about monies in the Tourist Development Council for marketing and grant funds. Ms. Steele said they have marketing dollars that can be used for the event, but they need to make sure they use the County's branding. Commissioner Holt asked about the amount of marketing dollars and Ms. Steele said usually, it is \$5,000 but the Board has the ability to instruct the Tourist Development Council to spend a different amount and take from a different line item. Commissioner Holt said the reason she was asking was because they were trying to figure out how to get Tourist Development in the County.

Commissioner Hinson said a couple weeks ago, they had a Pumpkin Fest in Havana and they were approved because they knew the value they brought into the community. He believes they gave them \$25,000. The Board suggested to give them money, they did not come to the Board. Ms. Daniels said that funding was in line of an event they sponsored with other cities.

Commissioner Green wanted to clarify this is not for a non-profit organization. This is an event that the individual has done before and brought in a lot of money for the County. This is a group that they need to invest in; they have provided for the County.

Commissioner Simpkins said this was different when talking about guidelines for non-profits, this is bringing in funds for the County. Hotels were sold out and people had to stay in Jackson County. This event will generate funds for the County.

Commissioner Holt said she had to disclose that he is distant relative of hers, but she is not benefitting from this.

Commissioner Hinson said, in all fairness, he has heard of Billy Dean and he had an event in Chattahoochee and after that, Chattahoochee got \$37,000 because Chair NeSmith brought it up.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO GIVE DJ TRUCKER \$25,000 FOR THE TRAIL RIDE EVENT AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Holt said if they want to settle the problem, they need to set up policies and procedures.

Commissioner Green provided a green light moment:

“The strength of a team is each individual member or organization. The strength of each member is the team”

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:51 PM.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

KIMBLIN NESMITH, Chair
Chair Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN
AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA
ON OCTOBER 23, 2023 AT 3:00 P.M.,
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS
HAD, VIZ:**

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

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair NeSmith called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm. Commissioner Green provided invocation. Chair NeSmith led into the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Review and Approval of the 2024 Gadsden County Legislative Priorities

Mr. Dixon stated this item is presented to the Board for review and approval of the 2024 Gadsden County Legislative Priorities. He went through the priorities and the requested amounts as followed:

Gadsden County Department of Elderly Affairs - \$1,000,000

Upgrades/ Renovations to the Edward J. Butler Building - \$2,420,552.50

Water and Sewer Expansion / Quincy / I-10 Interchange - \$4,000,000

Water and Sewer Expansion / Quincy / Jefferson Street East - \$3,000,000

Manufacturing Training Programs for Youth and Adults - \$2,000,000

Gadsden County Sports Arena Complex - \$40,080,000

New Fire Trucks, Hydrants and Water Systems - \$21,000,000

Courthouse Renovations - \$3,068,000

Gadsden County Arena and Livestock Pavilion - \$2,268,000

Havana Public Safety Facility Upgrades - \$2,000,000

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
October 23, 2023 – Special Meeting

Quincy Industrial Park / Joe Adams Road and Pat Thomas Park Road Expansion - \$4 Million

Gadsden County Sheriff Public Safety Unit and EOC - \$5 Million

Final phase of Public Safety Complex – with furnishing - \$5 Million

Expansion of Jail to meet future needs of the Mental Health & Substance Abuse Contract with Children & Families - \$6 Million

Mobile Disaster Unit - \$600,000

Sheriff's Annex Building / Gadsden County Youth Center / Roof Repair & Renovations - \$200,000

Greensboro Town Hall / Community Center - \$1,150,000

Chair NeSmith mentioned projects around the Walmart area and asked if they were increasing capacity for pipes. Mr. Dixon stated the pipes are not the problem, the pressure is. They will be needing tanks in order to sustain the high-pressure systems.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if the priorities were in any particular order. Mr. Dixon stated he was just reading through them and are not in any particular order.

Commissioner Simpkins stepped out at 3:34 p.m.

Commissioner Simpkins returned at 3:34 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson appeared at 3:35 p.m.

Commissioner Simpkins stated it would be helpful if priorities were ranked. She was told it would be helpful to the Delegation. Commissioner Green asked if they could rank them now. Commissioner Hinson stated the municipalities would rank them and bring them back to BOCC. Mr. Dixon stated they should probably go ahead and rank them.

Chair NeSmith asked what should be #1 on the priority list and Commissioner Green recommended for new fire trucks, hydrants and water systems to be #1.

Commissioner Hinson asked about Midway and Mr. Dixon stated they did not get anything from Midway. Commissioner Hinson stated it would be good to know which departments these are coming from.

Commissioner Simpkins stepped out at 4:22 p.m.

Commissioner Simpkins returned at 4:24 p.m.

Commissioner Green stepped out at 4:33 p.m.

Commissioner Green returned at 4:37 p.m.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
October 23, 2023 – Special Meeting

Commissioner Green suggested that they go through the packet instead of going back and forth and spending 45 minutes to an hour discussing one project.

Commissioner Simpkins stepped out at 4:47 p.m.

Commissioner Simpkins returned at 4:48 p.m.

Chair NeSmith stated for the Havana Public Safety Facility to be #2. Commissioners agreed. Commissioner Green stated he would like for both Water projects to be #3.

Chair NeSmith asked about #4 on the priority list. He stated they should go back to projects they already funded. They decided to have the Sheriff Public Safety and EOC complex be #4 on the priority list, Greensboro Town Hall to be #5, and then Sports Complex will be #6 on the priority list.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned the Arena and Livestock Pavilion and they decided for that to be #7. Commissioner Green stated the Gadsden County Pat Thomas Ecotourism Park will be #8 and the Manufacturing Training Program for Youth and Adults to be #9 on the priority list.

Commissioner Hinson asked about housing in state level; a lot of folks losing homes. Commissioner Green asked about numbers for the Health Department. Ms. Daniels stated they were not requesting funding, just support.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned the Expansion of Jail to Meet Future Needs of the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Contract with Children & Families and it was set as #10 for priority.

Commissioner Green stepped out at 5:32 p.m.

Commissioner Green returned at 5:34 p.m.

Chair NeSmith asked for a recommendation for #11 on the priority list. They decided to have Elderly Affairs be #11.

Commissioner Green recommended #12 to be Upgrades/ Renovations to the Edward J. Butler Building. He stated he was fine with the Courthouse renovation or the Edward J. Butler renovation for #12

Commissioner Simpkins stated she thought they requested the historical preservation grant. Mr. Dixon stated this was just in case it did not come through.

The Commissioners agreed for the Courthouse renovation to be #12 and the Upgrades/ Renovations to the Edward J. Butler Building to be #13. They also agreed to have #14 be the Mobile Unit Sherriff's Office request, #15 to be the Records Building, and the Sherrif Annexe Building to be #16 on the priority list.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD (3-Minute Limit)

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Chair NeSmith read aloud the above statement.

Regina Davis, 315 W Washington St Quincy, FL

Ms. Davis was confused on ranking these priorities. Mr. Dixon stated every municipality has been invited to submit what their priorities were.

Commissioner Green stated every municipality had an opportunity to submit something to the county. He stated in the future, to have a cut-off date of receiving projects.

Commissioner Simpkins stepped out at 4:17 p.m.

Commissioner Simpkins returned at 4:19 p.m.

Sheila Knowles, 528 E. Park Ave. Tallahassee, FL 32301

Ms. Knowles appeared before the Board to discuss the Legislative priorities. She would like for them to consider her project to be top on the priority list.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
October 23, 2023 – Special Meeting

Adjournment

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH DECLARED
THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:52 P.M.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, CLERK

**AT A FIRE SERVICES WORKSHOP OF
THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON
OCTOBER 26, 2023 AT 4:00 PM, THE
FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD,
VIZ:**

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

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair NeSmith started the workshop at 4:04 pm. Commissioner Green provided invocation and Chair NeSmith led into the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD (3-Minute Limit)

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Chair NeSmith read aloud the above statement.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Welcome

Chair NeSmith thanked everyone for attending.

2. Introductions and Background of Fire Services

Mr. Dixon thanked everyone.

Mr. Dixon stated they were going through contracts, just an understanding of where they are going. It is an open and honest discussion on how to move forward.

Mr. Dixon stated they will start with Unincorporated Volunteer Fire Departments. Rosters will receive \$20.00 per fire response. Grant Pool will be created by County to use when only a reimbursable grant match is required. The County will create a policy that allow all BOCC employees who are active on an Unincorporated Volunteer Fire Department to utilize administrative leave in the event of a fire response should it affect normal day to day employment. The County will provide monthly trainings to fire departments and the County will provide a uniform, assertive campaign to recruit.

They will require both Unincorporated Volunteer Fire Departments and Municipal Volunteer Fire Departments to host community engagements and/or outreach programs in the unincorporated coverage area represented by them 2 times per year.

Mr. Dixon went on to the City of Quincy Fire Department. Mr. Dixon stated they were planning on having contracts within the next few weeks. Any feedback would be appreciated.

3. Introductions and Background of Fire Services

Chair NeSmith stated this was a working document and they need input from them. It is about unity. This is only a recommendation and a start to this.

Commissioner Green stated he would like to hear from other departments like the Chief before giving input. He has been advocating for volunteers.

Commissioner Holt stated she looks at the funding source. How much can they pull from the state/federal government. Commissioner Holt also mentioned inventory.

Danny Hunt, Fire Chief Gretna, hoped to collaborate. He stated the Cities have been working together and they had presented a plan to the Board in July.

Chief Baker, City of Quincy Fire, stated there is details needed to be worked out.

Town Manager gave a brief statement. Commissioner Holt asked if they have insurance now. Town Manager said yes.

Mr. Nixon stated a lot of details need to be worked out. He recommended to deal with the timelier issues now. He had concerns regarding liability.

Dr. Grant thanked the Administrator for putting this together. He looked forward to working with them. He also mentioned that the increased funding for Midway looks great.

Fire Chief of Gretna provided a quick presentation. He mentioned how they would pay for it and they were potentially looking at a special fire assessment.

Chief Hunt stated the ISO is more of a report card of ability to deliver services.

Chief Hood asked which cities are part of this plan. Without the fire assessment, how do they plan on funding the plan presented?

They were leaving funding up to elected officials.

4. Board Direction

ADJOURNMENT

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH DECLARED THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED AT 5:44 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY,
FLORIDA ON OCTOBER 30, 2023 AT
3:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING
PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Kimblin NeSmith, Chair, District 3
Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2
Brenda Holt, District 4
Ronterious “Ron” Green, District 5
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair NeSmith called the meeting to order at 3:02 P.M. Commissioner Simpkins provided invocation and Chair NeSmith led into the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair NeSmith called for a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

**COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA AS PRESENTED AND
COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO
APPROVE.**

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD (3-Minute Limit)

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Chair NeSmith read aloud the above statement.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- 1. Approval To Extend Interlocal and Fire Service Agreements For 180 Days or Until Such Time as The Respective Parties Can Execute Updated Agreements in Full**

Ms. Daniels presented the above item. This item seeks Board approval of the Interlocal Fire and Rescue Service Agreements between Gadsden County, Florida and the Concord, Chattahoochee, Town of Greensboro, Greenshade-Dogtown, Gretna, Town of Havana, Midway, Mt. Pleasant, Robertsville/St. Johns, Sycamore, Wetumpka, and the Quincy Fire Departments. This agreement will be a 180-day extension of the previous executed agreement or until such time each respective party can execute updated agreements in full.

Commissioner Green asked when they can expect to have the final contract. Ms. Daniels stated as soon as they can get the contracts negotiated and everyone to agree, it will come before them. Hopefully before 180 days.

Commissioner Simpkins asked about additional workshops and Ms. Daniels stated she was not sure if there is another workshop scheduled, but they can schedule one if they would like.

Commissioner Holt appeared at 3:08 p.m.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THIS ITEM AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

ADJOURNMENT

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH DECLARED THE EMERGENCY MEETING ADJOURNED AT 3:10 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

KIMBLIN NESMITH, CHAIR
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, CLERK

**AT A MEETING OF THE
PLANNING COMMISSION
HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FL ON NOVEMBER
16, 2023 AT 6:00 P.M., THE
FOLLOWING PROCEEDING
WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Lori Bouie, Chair, District 5
 Eugene Sherman III, District 1
 John Youman, District 2
 Mark Moore, District 3
 Wayne Williams, District 3
 Charles Roberts, At Large
 Tracey Stallworth, District 2
 Karema Dudley, School Board Representative

Staff Present: Justin Stiell, Growth Management Director
 Ellen Andrews, Senior Planner
 Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
 Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk

Call To Order, Invocation, and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Bouie called the meeting to order at 6 pm. Commissioner Moore provided Invocation and Commissioner Roberts led into the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introduction of Members – Roll Call

Lori Bouie, Chair	Present
Eugene Sherman III	Present
Tracey Stallworth	Present
John Youman	Present
Mark Moore	Present
Wayne Williams	Present
Charles Roberts	Present
Karema Dudley	Present

Election of Officers

COMMISSIONER SHERMAN MADE A MOTION TO NOMINATE LORI BOUIE AS CHAIR AND COMMISSIONER YOUAMAN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 8-0 BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE.

COMMISSIONER YOUMAN MADE A MOTION TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER STALLWORTH AS VICE-CHAIR AND COMMISSIONER ROBERTS MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 8-0 BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE.

Amendments and Approval of Agenda

Consent

1. Approval of Minutes:
 - a. July 13, 2023
 - b. August 10, 2023

COMMISSIONER MOORE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES WITH THE CORRECTIONS MENTIONED AND KAREMA DUDLEY MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 8-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Citizens Requesting to be Heard on Non-Agenda Items (3-minute limit)

The Gadsden County Planning Board welcomes and encourages public participation at all meetings of the Board. Citizens are free to speak for up to three (3) minutes on non-agenda items. Public comments and participation are also encouraged for items on the agenda. Additionally, if you are unable to attend a meeting in person, comments from the Public can also be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until noon on the date of the meeting. Comments submitted after the deadline, but prior to the meeting, will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting. Citizens are further encouraged to participate via Zoom using the credentials on the County's website. The Board's meetings are also broadcast live on the Board's Facebook page. Chair Bouie read aloud the above statement.

Public Hearings

2. **ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT REGULATIONS (LDR 2023-01) (Legislative Hearing) – Consideration of Ordinance #2023-06 amending Chapter 5, Development Standards of the Gadsden County Land Development Code by revising Section 5100, Residential Standards, and Subsection 5101, Residential Uses, and adding Subsection 5108, Accessory Dwelling Units.**

Mr. Stiell stated this public hearing was for consideration of Ordinance #2023-06 (LDR 2023-01) amending Chapter 5. This agenda request is for consideration of an amendment to Chapter 5 of the Gadsden County Land Development Code to add standards for Accessory Dwelling Units.

Commissioner Roberts mentioned that on attachment 3, under policy 3.1.8, it says one per 2 acres, but on attachment 1, on B2, it says the property owner must own at minimum one upland acre under one parcel ID number.

Mr. Stiell stated they were aware of that; you can have two acres and only have half an acre that has upland. If they have a minimum of one-acre uplands, something not in the wetlands, then they can build their accessory dwelling unit.

Commissioner Sherman asked with the maximum of 80% as a standard, was that what they saw in other jurisdictions. Mr. Stiell stated that was what he has seen in other local governments. Currently, they are utilizing a thousand square feet. If they have a 2-thousand-square-foot home, then they can have a 16-hundred-square-foot accessory dwelling unit versus having a two-thousand-square-foot home and only being limited to a thousand-square-feet.

Commissioner Sherman asked if they had any ideas on property tax impact. Mr. Stiell stated they have discussed this with the property appraiser and are getting an understanding of how they go about accessing the property. It is based on the square foot of livable space. If you increase the amount of livable space, you increase your taxes.

Commissioner Roberts mentioned attachment 1, where it stated "if rented, the unit will be rented at an affordable rate to an extremely -low-income, very-low-income, low-income, or moderate-income person or persons." He asked how would that be enforced. Mr. Stiell stated the FL Statute requires that if they are going to have an accessory dwelling unit, and going to be renting that unit, it would be for affordable housing. When they make their application, they would have to sign an affidavit saying that is what was done.

Commissioner Moore said he was reading about the septic systems and asked how it would work on an acre. Mr. Stiell stated if they have a septic system that is not a nitrogen-reducing system, have to have a minimum of one acre land. If they do have nitrogen-reducing system, can have less than one acre land. They are requiring one acre of land uplands minimum. You can have half-acre lot and have a septic system.

Commissioner Moore asked what are they going to do when kids grow up and parents get old and they want to sell the place. Mr. Stiell stated as part of the requirements in this, they cannot be sold separately. When you sell a parcel, you sell everything including the main unit as well as accessory dwelling unit.

Commissioner Williams asked what would prevent him from attaching a unit and turn into the septic tank of the home and then building an attached walkway from the home. Wouldn't it be a complete unit? Mr. Stiell stated sure, in that case, that was talking about an addition to his home.

Chair Bouie asked if a resident can correct a septic and make a new proposed cost lower. Mr. Stiell stated that is a DOH question. Smallest property that the county allows is one acre.

Commissioner Stallworth asked what was the purpose of nitro in the new septic system. Mr. Stiell stated they may have heard about the die off of sea grass. When you have a septic system, things go into it and they leech out into the ground, and if you're close to a water body or your neighbors water system and there is an issue, you can have some contamination going on due to the amount of nitrogen.

COMMISSIONER MOORE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION ONE AND COMMISSIONER YOUAMAN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 8-0 TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

General Business

3. Planning Commission 2024 Meeting Schedule

Chair Bouie mentioned the 2024 schedule and asked if there were any questions.

4. Planning Director's Comments

Mr. Stiell stated to please put the 2024 schedule on their calendars. It was important that if they have a development coming in to get them all together. Some of the time requirements are that if they miss a meeting, there is no way to get it done before the next meeting.

Mr. Stiell stated they have not received any new development for the next planning meeting in December. He asked if they wanted to continue with the meeting as scheduled in December or just wait until January.

COMMISSIONER STALLWORTH MADE A MOTION TO HAVE THEIR NEXT MEETING IN JANUARY AND CANCEL THE DECEMBER MEETING AND COMMISSIONER YOUAMAN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 8-0 TO APPROVE.

Mr. Stiell mentioned that in the last meeting, there were some questions about Talquin Electric and their water pumping on Dupont Road. The recommendation to the Board was denial, and they were based on certain facts. Because of that, the Board requested that Talquin go back and do some testing. Talquin did the testing and it showed that there was no water draw down and therefore there was no issue.

5. Planning Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Stallworth stated Mr. Stiell is doing a good job and hoped that for the future they are able to bring in some industries.

Commissioner Sherman thanked the Staff and Attorney and Chair Bouie thanked everyone for their service and availability.

Gadsden County Planning Commission
November 16, 2023 - Regular Meeting

Motion to Adjourn

**WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR BOUIE ADJOURNED
THE MEETING AT 6:54 P.M.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

LORI BOUIE, Chair

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON DECEMBER 5, 2023 AT 6:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

Present: Ronterious Green, Chair, District 5
Alonzetta Simpkins, Vice-Chair, District 2
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
Adriana Quijada, Clerk Secretary to the Boards

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Green called the meeting to order and gave the Invocation. He then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

Amendments and Approval of Agenda

Mr. Dixon stated Commissioner Holt has asked to pull Item 3 and Commissioner Simpkins asked for Item 5 to be pulled for discussion and to add Item 5a under General Business.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED WITH THE ADDITION OF ITEM 5A.

Awards, Presentations and Appearances

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO HONOR AND RECOGNIZE COACH WILLIE SIMMONS AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

CONSENT

Mr. Dixon said Commissioner Holt asked for Item 3 be pulled for discussion and Commissioner Simpkins asked for item 5 to be pulled for discussion.

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

1. **Ratification Memo**
2. **Approval of the 2024 Board of County Commissioners Meeting Calendar**

3. Approval of a Resolution Ratifying Staff Submission of a Grant Application to the Florida Department of Commerce’s Rural Infrastructure Fund Seeking Funds to Create an Arts and Cultural Map and Story Board and to Partner with the ARPC
Item pulled for discussion
4. Approval of the Department of Health County Awards Grant Application and Resolution 2023-043
5. Approval of the Granicus Intranet Proposal No. Q-308712
Pulled for Discussion

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

3. Approval of a Resolution Ratifying Staff Submission of a Grant Application to the Florida Department of Commerce’s Rural Infrastructure Fund Seeking Funds to Create an Arts and Cultural Map and Story Board and to Partner with the ARPC

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. This item is for approval of a Resolution Ratifying Staff Submission of a Grant Application to the Florida Department of Commerce’s Rural Infrastructure Fund Seeking Funds to Create an Arts and Cultural Map and Story Board and to Partner with the ARPC.

Commissioner Holt said she was in favor of this Grant. She mentioned page 3 of 26 and stated she hoped the group will include a black history trail. She stated Gadsden County has always been a predominantly black County. She would like for that to be included under #2 for mapping.

Commissioner NeSmith stated it was a reimbursement grant and asked if they have a plan in place on how they want to utilize the \$300,000. Mr. Dixon said yes.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH THE CHANGES OF ADDING BLACK HISTORICAL DESIGNATIONS AND LANDMARKS AND TO INCLUDE BLACK HISTORY TRAIL AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

5. Approval of the Granicus Intranet Proposal No. Q-308712

Mr. Dixon said Commissioner Simpkins asked this item to be pulled. It is for the approval of the Granicus Intranet Proposal No Q-308712. The new intranet will allow secure internal communications that will include easy access to information such as department policies and procedures, work unit schedules, training calendars/content, and other content to specific employee groups.

Commissioner Simpkins asked the Administrator to expound on it. Her concern was that they already have a contract with Granicus and they were not totally using the service and to add additional services was her concern, but he addressed her concern.

Commissioner Green asked when they could expect everything to be up and running. Mr. Jackson, I.T. Director, came forward. He stated with this phase, they have the website up. The next phase is adding Zoom and broadcasting on the website. It was an extension of the existing Granicus contract.

Commissioner Green asked when could they expect the website to be fully operational. Mr. Jackson stated the only thing missing was the adding of the video. It should be up in the next couple of weeks.

Commissioner NeSmith said they entered into a relation with Granicus quite a while ago. He asked if these 2 services were not anticipated when originally entered. Mr. Jackson said they had staff changes and HR wanted to be able to reach all employees.

Commissioner Simpkins said animal control had their form out and asked what was the response time. Mr. Jackson said part of that is training, getting them trained on what they need to do.

Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Dixon if she would be able to get flow charts and he said yes.

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

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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Commissioner NeSmith read the above statement aloud.

Janet Watson, 2793 Sycamore Road, Quincy, FL 32341

Ms. Watson appeared before the Board and asked to give her 3 minutes to her husband, Mike.

Mike Watson, 2793 Sycamore Road

Mr. Watson appeared before the Board concerning Sycamore Road. He said Commissioner Hinson stated he had issues in his district that needed to be taken care of. He said he was also concerned with the way priority is given to roads.

Mr. Dixon said road submission is a competitive process. Roads are submitted and DOT decides.

Tracey Stallworth

Mr. Stallworth appeared before the Board concerning Item 3. He stated the history of Gadsden County was very important as it relates to black folks. He asked if there would be a task force and asked to be a part of it.

Mr. Stallworth stated about a month ago, he appeared asking for approval of his non-profit organization and was back again to request funding. Commissioner Green said they were waiting on a workshop. Mr. Stallworth asked to be excluded from the workshop and asked to be approved. Commissioner Holt asked to have up or down vote.

Commissioner NeSmith said he knew Mr. Stallworth but they needed to have a process in place. He supports Mr. Stallworth 100% but does not approve of the process.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE \$10,000 TO STALLWORTH ASSOCIATES AND GLOBAL, INC. AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER HINSON AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH OPPOSED.

Commissioner Holt stated all they need is a motion and second to not approve any others until they have a workshop.

Commissioner Hinson said if a commissioner already had prior knowledge about a process set in place, how could she vote on that. Mr. Knowles said he was not sure of a written, adopted policy on how non-profits are dealt with. Commissioner Simpkins said in the budget, they have a line item for non-profits.

Commissioner Holt said they required the non-profits to appear before them and provide reports. They need to look at the research.

Commissioner Green stated it was not difficult to support someone like Dr. Stallworth because of the services he has provided to Gadsden County. Commissioner NeSmith said he wanted a process. He stated that when he arrived to the Board, they were providing support for non-profits for years. But, when he asked for documentation of where that money went, he was not able to locate it. They need accountability.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO NOT APPROVE ANY OTHER NON-PROFIT FOR FUNDING UNTIL THEY HAVE A WORKSHOP AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

5a. Consideration of Approval of Site Selection Analysis for proposed Boys & Girls Club and Community Center

Mr. Dixon said this agenda item seeks approval of the site selection analysis performed for a proposed new COVID-19 sensitive Boys & Girls Club & Community Center within the corporate limits of the City of Quincy. He stated the MLK track field was available and would give an opportunity to build for 3.6 million.

Laura Youmans appeared before the Board and said they were appreciative to continue to serve this Community. She stated they support this site and look forward to the opportunity to work. She wanted to talk more about the next steps of the project.

Commissioner Holt asked if the Boys & Girls Club had any funding that they were going to put towards this project. Ms. Youmans stated they have not authorized any from the Board. They have earmarked funding for Gadsden County programs.

Commissioner Holt said she knew the track field needed to be resurfaced and asked if it would be incorporated? Mr. Dixon said the track field as is would go away but would be reincorporated in a new way. Commissioner Holt asked if the City of Quincy voted? Mr. Dixon said he has spoken with 1-2 Commissioners.

Commissioner Simpkins said there needs to be a workshop with the Board for Boys & Girls Club so that they are all on the same page. Commissioner NeSmith echoed part of what Commissioner Simpkins and Commissioner Holt stated. This is an opportunity to partner with the City of Quincy to create the Boys & Girls club.

Commissioner Hinson asked if the City of Quincy were planning to donate the property to the County. Mr. Dixon said that was what they are requesting. Commissioner Hinson asked if it was

going to be a Gadsden County Boys & Girls Club or Big Bend Boys & Girls Club. Mr. Dixon said the facility would be Gadsden County.

Commissioner Green said the first step is to get the property. Commissioner Hinson asked if the 3.6 million dollars is going to the building and Mr. Dixon said yes.

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

CLERK OF COURT

6. Updates

Nothing to report.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

7. Updates

Mr. Dixon stated he just wanted to remind everyone that the parade is Friday, it was canceled from last Friday due to rain.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

8. Updates

Nothing to report.

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

CHAIR GREEN MADE A MOTION TO RECOGNIZE COACH WILLIE SIMMONS AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARDS VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson congratulated FAMU and FSU on their successful season.

Commissioner Hinson thanked Public Works and Facilities and Maintenance for great work. He said he had talked about giving bonuses because they are the hardest workers in Gadsden County. He stated they still have ARPC money and to look into giving a bonus for Christmas. He also mentioned EMS.

Commissioner Hinson Hoped everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and also stated that he was at a Midway event yesterday for Push the Truck and stated it was beautiful.

Commissioner Kimblin Nesmith, District 3

Commissioner NeSmith mentioned that he still has a legislative aide. He wished Chair Green a happy belated birthday.

Commissioner NeSmith stated he enjoyed the Gala for the County and hoped they could use Galas to raise monies.

Commissioner NeSmith stated the Gadsden County Summer Youth program will be here before they know it and stated it was extremely important to start working on the program. He asked if there has been any thought in bringing in someone full-time. Mr. Dixon nodded yes.

Commissioner NeSmith mentioned trash all over roads around the County.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt stated that the Florida Rebuild will have a training program and that they need to partner with the School Board.

Commissioner Holt asked the Board to find \$100,000 for cold-weather shelter. Chair Green said it was a good suggestion and asked if they knew how many people used the Recreation Center. Commissioner Holt said she was not sure about the numbers and stated Havana may be one location and Chattahoochee another. They need to look into moving some money.

Mr. Dixon said the County will be involved in the next count of homelessness and it will be soon. They have reached out to Continuum of Care and they were looking at North Florida Network for additional funding.

Commissioner Holt asked the Attorney if he had anything to discuss on private roads-surveys, deeding property. She said when cities were annexing property, they were not annexing roads. Mr. Knowles said they were not required to do that. Commissioner Holt stated they need something written up that they could request from the legislature some help in this.

Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, Vice-Chair, District 2

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION TO RECOGNIZE RONALD MCCLLOUD AND CHAIR GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION TO RECOGNIZE MARY BUSH SMITH AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned Fire Contracts and asked where they were with that and if they have met with municipalities. Mr. Dixon said he believed the Attorney was close to closing

out. They were going through the one on ones with each department. Mr. Knowles said Havana was passing their own extension. Chair Green said they were given the extension but did not want to wait until the end of the extension

Commissioner Simpkins wanted to address the ordinance from the last meeting. She asked if the \$5,000 was per event or per item. Mr. Knowles said he believed it was silent on that.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if they submitted any requests to federal lobbyists? She asked if there has been any return on the investment.

Mr. Dixon said the initial return has been in federal grants. He stated the formula they had did not work for Gadsden County. Now, they were looking for appropriations through agencies and there will be multi-million-dollar requests. Commissioner Simpkins asked if the County could expect a return. Mr. Dixon said they have had to redefine what the County wants and what they want to receive.

Mr. Knowles said there was nothing in the Ordinance stating per event. Commissioner Simpkins asked if it could come back to the Board to look at amending per event.

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION TO BRING BACK ORDINANCE 2023-07 TO CHECK ON WORDING ON SPENDING AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Holt said if they had more than one thing during an event, it needs to be discussed. If Billy Dean were coming, there may be X number of dollars and another individual will be X number of dollars.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned lighting in parks and stated it had been put on the back burner. She asked where they were with parks and lighting.

Mr. Dixon apologized that it looked stagnant and stated they have already placed on the agenda funding for the next meeting.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if they could keep the students in their prayers that were shot last week. She stated one has passed away today.

Commissioner NeSmith reminded everyone to review the strategic plan.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, Chair, District 5

Chair Green thanked everyone for a productive meeting. He stated that on the 16th there will be a golf cart parade at Lake Talquin and he is the Grand Marshall.

Chair Green mentioned Parks and Rec and stated they have asked each commissioner for names for the board. He asked if they have started advertising the position and Mr. Dixon believed it was out there.

Chair Green stated he would like for directors to be on-line or in the meeting in case they have questions. Mr. Dixon said the policy is if a director has an item on the agenda, they have to be in the meeting, if they do not, then they would be on-line.

Chair Green asked about the policy on ditches in the county because of the rain this past week and he also stated that the ditches are not being maintained.

Chair Green asked what was Gadsden County known for. They need to have some type of festival to bring in people and they need to be creative to do something.

Commissioner Holt mentioned that she was having surgery tomorrow to take a screw out of her ankle.

Chair Green provided a Greenlight moment: Mistakes are proof you are trying-do not stop trying even if you mess up.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:01 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**RONTERIOUS GREEN, 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 DECEMBER 19, 2023 AT 6:00 PM, THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

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

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Green called the meeting to Order at 6:00 pm, asked the audience to silence their phones, and asked the Commissioners to please stay on point. He said the Invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Amendments and Approval of Agenda

Mr. Dixon wanted to add Item 22a-Redistricting for discussion, and Chair Green asked to not make it an agenda item and discuss it in his comments.

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

Awards, Presentations and Appearances

1. Florida Association of Counties Trust (FACT) Presentation

Becky Maas appeared before the Board and introduced Denise Vogulshang and she explained the benefits and the program.

CONSENT

Commissioner NeSmith asked to pull items 4, 13 & 17 for discussion.

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

2. **Ratification Memo**
3. **BOCC Meeting/Workshop Minutes:**
 - a. **November 21, 2023 Regular BOCC Meeting**
4. **Approval of Artist Performance Agreements for the Bicentennial R&B Concert**
5. **Approval of Change Order #01 for Iron Bridge Road Improvements**
6. **Approval of the E911 2023 Fall Rural County Grant Agreement for Eventide NexLog DX Voice Recorder Annual Support, Warranty and Maintenance**
7. **Approval of the E911 2023 Fall Rural County Grant Agreement for E911 System and MapFlex Annual Support and Maintenance**
8. **Approval of the Judiciary Inquiry System (JIS) Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Access Certification Statement**
9. **Approval of Bid Award for WA Woodham Building Elevator Modernization**
10. **Approval of the Florida Department of Health, County Matching Grant Application for Gadsden County Emergency Services**
11. **Approval of the FY 2024-25 Proposed Budget Calendar**
12. **Approval of Request to Receive Reimbursement from the FL Division of Emergency Management for Hurricane Idalia**
13. **Approval of Gadsden County Sheriff's Office/Blue Line Solutions Automated School Zone Traffic Enforcement**
14. **Approval of the Resolution for the New Chairperson Facsimile Stamp**
15. **Approval of the Agreement for Geographical Information System (GIS) Services with the Apalachicola Regional Planning Council (ARPC)**
16. **Approval of Agreement for the Gadsden County Comprehensive Vulnerability Assessment with the Apalachicola Regional Planning Council (ARPC)**
17. **Approval of Allocation of remaining funds for American Rescue Plan (ARPA)**

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

4. Approval of Artist Performance Agreements for the Bicentennial R&B Concert

Commissioner NeSmith asked if they had a process and Mr. Dixon stated yes, the Attorney established a system.

Commissioner Holt asked to get the skinny on the contracts. Mr. Knowles explained these were just contracts for the acts. Mr. Dixon stated they were getting all of that stuff in place.

13. Approval of Gadsden County Sheriff's Office/Blue Line Solutions Automated School Zone Traffic Enforcement

Commissioner NeSmith asked if everyone had an opportunity to see the program and ask questions. Chair Green stated each of them should have had an opportunity to speak with local law enforcement.

17. Approval of Allocation of remaining funds for American Rescue Plan (ARPA)

Commissioner NeSmith stated he knew it had been a while since they determined how they wanted to allocate those remaining funds and wanted to make sure it was consistent.

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

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

The Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners welcomes and encourages public participation at all meetings of the Board. Citizens are free to speak for up to three (3) minutes on non-agenda items. Public comments and participation are also encouraged for items on the agenda. Additionally, if you are unable to attend a meeting in person, comments from the Public can also be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.org until noon on the date of the meeting. Comments submitted after the deadline, but prior to the meeting, will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting. Citizens are further encouraged to participate via Zoom using the credentials on the County's website.

Chrissy Shorter-Arnold, 30 Stillwater Lane Havana, FL

Ms. Shorter-Arnold appeared before the Board and wanted to speak on literacy and suicide prevention. She stated she received great feedback while before the Board but have not heard anything from them. She said the Board's float was cute but she heard it cost \$35,000 to build. She came to the source to find out the facts. She also mentioned the bad conditions of the jail.

Commissioner Holt asked if she had met with the Administrator earlier and she said no, she left her book but she could be available. She stated they had several programs before regarding this and it was time to have it again. Commissioner Holt stated they put in with federal lobbyists several years ago; the commission changed and they got rid of lobbyists.

Mr. Dixon said he met with the Sheriff and had lunch at the jail. He was a very big proponent of re-entry. He stated they had an ask-in this year of \$40-50 Million. As to the float, they may be spent \$2500.

Gekettia Harris, 122 North Cleveland Street Quincy, FL

Ms. Harris stated she will give her 3 minutes to Ms. Shorter-Arnold.

Kate MacFall, 1206 Walton Drive Tallahassee, FL

Ms. MacFall stated she works with Humane Society of the United States. She mentioned that Allan Meeks was the first person to take an interest in animal services. She stated she was here to assist and support in an important way for the animals in Gadsden County.

Kafui Ablordeppey, Quincy Music Theater, 850-591-8923, 118 East Washington Street, Quincy, FL

Mr. Ablordeppey appeared before the Board and stated he sits on the Board of Quincy Music Theater. He was looking forward to more opportunities to work with the Board and the Community.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

18. Public Hearing (Legislative)-Consideration of Ordinance 2023-06 (LDR 2023-01), amending Chapter 5, Development Standards of the Gadsden County Land Development Code by revising Section 5100. Residential Standards, and Subsection 5101, Residential Uses, and adding Subsection 5108, Accessory Dwelling Units

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and explained it was amending Chapter 5 of Gadsden County Land Development Code.

Justin Stiell appeared before the Board and stated it was for an addition of accessory dwelling units in the County.

Chair Green asked if anyone wished to make a comment.

Commissioner NeSmith asked him to repeat the last statement. He said it was to establish policy and procedures.

Mr. Stiell stated it would have to be a site-built home; mobile homes were not allowed.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if it applied to Ag1 and Ag2 and Mr. Stiell said it does not yet allow it, only to rural residential or urban service area land.

Chair Green asked for the will of the Board.

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

19. Public Hearing: Adoption of Ordinance No. 2023-08, An Ordinance Ordering and Providing For The Holding Of A Referendum Of The Qualified Electors Residing in Gadsden County To Be Held On November 5, 2024, On The Question Of Approving A Half-Cent School Capital Outlay Sales Surtax As Levied By The Gadsden County School Board Pursuant To FL Statutes Section 212.055(6); Directing The Clerk To Provide Notices To State Government; Authorizing Certain Incidental Actions, Providing For Severability, And Providing An Effective Date.

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it seeks Board adoption of an ordinance with places on the November 5, 2024 Ballot a referendum of the qualified electors of Gadsden County on the question of approving a half-cent school capital outlay sales surtax. This will allow for this to go on the ballot.

Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Knowles to send a copy of the ordinance and Mr. Knowles explained that it was in the packet.

Dr. Jackson, Vice Superintendent of School Board member appeared before the Board and spoke and reiterated the Board was not voting to raise the taxes. If voted on by the public, tax will go to benefit existing schools.

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

GENERAL BUSINESS

20. Consideration of approval of Task Order for the Design of the Emergency Medical Services Facility on Joe Adams Road

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. This item seeks approval of a Task Order with Clemmons Rutherford and Associates under the County CCNA RFQ 23-01 Professional Architectural Services contract for the design for the Gadsden County Emergency Services Facility.

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

21. Consideration of Joshua Ray's appointment to the Gadsden County Board of Planning Commission

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. This item seeks consideration of Joshua Ray's appointment to the Gadsden County Board of Planning Commission.

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

22. Approval to Award RFP No. 23-08 Emergency Debris Monitoring Services

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. This item seeks approval to award RFP No. 23-08 Emergency Debris Monitoring Services.

Commissioner NeSmith asked the Administrator if funds would come from the budget already approved and Mr. Dixon stated yes.

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

CLERK OF COURT

23. Updates

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

24. Updates

Mr. Dixon said it was brought to his attention this weekend that the Board has not redistricted. He stated some districts are more than 40% out of compliance and there are those that may sue to make it happen. They have until sometime in February to complete the cause. He recommended they have a joint meeting with the School Board because their lines mimic the County's lines and they need to take an opportunity to draw their own lines. If they do nothing, lines may be redrawn and not by them.

Chair Green asked if they had data. Mr. Dixon said Havana and Midway were growing and those districts have gotten bigger faster than others. According to law, 10% off is indicator and one district is almost 40% off.

Commissioner Holt said she talked to 2-3 different people asking questions and they could take an opportunity to get into controversial chance to redistrict. They need to see if they can work with the school board to get this done.

Commissioner NeSmith said he had a number of questions. He asked if they followed the census or was there another entity that supplied the numbers. Mr. Dixon said generally, they follow the census.

Mr. Knowles said the statute is 124.01 and it requires the Board to look at their districts. He stated from seeing what other counties do, they could bring in a consultant to look at their districts and then apportion those districts appropriately so that they line up with the requisite case law that they have out. He suggested to move forward with the meeting with the school board; have an action workshop.

Mr. Dixon suggested to reach out to groups. He was not aware the law had passed to allow 270 days into the new year to do redistricting. He asked they make a motion and carry for a workshop.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO GIVE THE ADMINISTRATOR POWER TO MOVE FORWARD WITH A WORKSHOP TO DISCUSS RE-DISTRICTING AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Mr. Dixon reminded them of the employee get together Thursday at 6:00 pm. He thanked them for their participation.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

25. Updates

Mr. Knowles stated he will be sending the Commissioners a few county attorney contracts from different counties.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

26. Commissioner Eric Hinson, Vice-Chair, District 1

Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, Chair, District 3

Commissioner NeSmith mentioned that they still have the hurricane sign on the Courthouse square and Ms. Daniels stated it will be tended to.

Commissioner Simpkins stepped out 7:22 p.m.

Commissioner NeSmith asked about debris and unwanted items on the ground that continue to exist in many areas. He thanked staff for contacting the State. He asked if they have a dedicated person that goes around in the ATV. Ms. Daniels stated Public Works utilizes ATV'S.

Commissioner Simpkins returned 7:24 p.m.

Ms. Steele said the next phase of the plan is to bring in cities and municipalities. They were already working on it.

Commissioner NeSmith hoped all Commissioners have had a chance to meet with the Administrator to discuss important issues regarding the Human Resource Department.

Commissioner NeSmith congratulated all FAMU fans and congratulated Coach Willie Simmons on the National Championship.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt said they need a program in place where people should be ticketed if they are caught throwing trash out. They seem to be moving backwards in this process.

Chair Green stepped out 7:33 p.m.

Commissioner Holt stated that other Boards need to take the training that the FACT lady mentioned earlier.

Chair Green returned 7:35 p.m.

Commissioner Holt said "Ms. Vivian" in Robertsville would be happy if animal control came and got every dog in Robertsville. She stated animal control went out to her house but there was no one home. She asked what happens in these situations.

Allan Meeks appeared before the Board and stated they always try to leave a card if no one is home. If there is a violation, they leave a copy of it on the door.

Commissioner NeSmith returned 7:38 p.m.

Commissioner Holt said property was still being annexed out and the roads were not being included. Cities were not required to take a road in. They need to look at the legislation and see how they can get some attention on this.

Commissioner Holt mentioned event contracts and asked if they could get a plan in place. They need to know what needs to be done that they are not doing. They need to make sure everyone is paid on time.

Commissioner NeSmith thanked Commissioner Holt for making a point. He stated once conversations take place with the Administrator, things will move quickly.

Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2

Commissioner Simpkins stated she would like for them to have workshops scheduled. She mentioned needing to have a workshop with Capital Health Plan and have a conversation with them to see how they could be a better partner.

Commissioner Simpkins stated that Commissioner Holt mentioned the homeless problem at the last meeting. She has started receiving calls and she was not sure if the Rec center is open. They need to look at and see who they can partner with to provide services to citizens that cannot get to Leon County.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if there was an actual policy for procurement and Ms. Daniels stated it was on the County's website.

Commissioner Simpkins announced that on January 1, she will be doing the third annual New Years Day brunch and she asked the Board for partnership for chairs, tents and tables.

COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE A MOTION TO UTILIZE EQUIPMENT FOR NEW YEARS DAY BRUNCH AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Simpkins echoed Commissioner NeSmith in the congratulations to Coach Willie Simmons.

Chair Ronterious Green, District 5

Chair Green thanked everyone for a productive meeting and for all the hard work everyone is doing. He mentioned that the annual golf cart parade was canceled and rescheduled for December 30th and it will be a holiday parade.

Chair Green mentioned that there is a major problem on Joe Adams and Strong Road and he did not want a catastrophe to happen.

Commissioner Holt said they did have engineers and did some work with FDOT, they could maybe request for them look at it.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if was tomorrow or Thursday for the Seniors Foundation and Ms. Daniels said Thursday 11-1 at the Rec Center. Commissioner Simpkins asked if once the website is up and running, will there still be Zoom available? Ms. Steele stated no. Commissioner Simpkins asked how would constituents participate and Ms. Steele stated they can submit requests through email to be heard.

Chair Green provided a Greenlight moment:

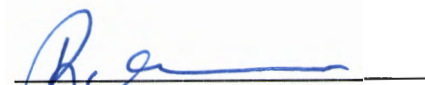
"The best part of this time of the year are the memories that we should be making, and if you are missing a loved one during this season, please remember the fond memories that were created that will allow them to forever live within your hearts.

Chair Green wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

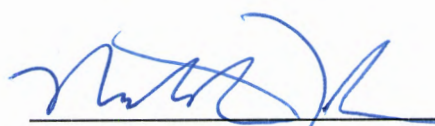
THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:59 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA



RONTERIOUS GREEN, CHAIR
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:



NICHOLAS THOMAS, CLERK

