

AT A PRE-MEETING WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON APRIL 6, 2021 AT 4:30
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

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

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Dixon welcomed everyone to the workshop.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD (3-Minute Limit)

Due to COVID-19 and the efforts of the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners to continue the practice of social distancing, Commissioners want to continue to hear from citizens under the Citizens Requesting to be Heard section of the agenda.

If citizens have any questions, comments, or concerns, please email

CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov and anticipate receiving a response within 48 hours.

The Board of County Commissioners would like to thank everyone for their patience and flexibility during this time.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Review and Discuss the April 6, 2021 Regular BOCC Meeting Agenda (Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator)

Mr. Dixon went over the Agenda items for the April 6, 2021 meeting scheduled for 6:00 p.m.

Commissioner Green entered the workshop at 4:36 p.m.

Diane Quigley, Growth Development Director, appeared before the Board and stated that the tower ordinance was in response to a lot of requests received from the public and complaints about the communications towers and that the Land Development Code was very restrictive. She said staff reviewed it and did find that the ordinance was pretty restrictive. She explained the item.

Commissioner NeSmith asked the number of towers. Mr. Knowles stated there were around 40. Ms. Quigley stated there are some that were for emergency providers.

Commissioner NeSmith asked once they were no longer in use, were they removed? Ms. Quigley there is a Subsection that talks about when the tower was no longer operational, it was the responsibility of the owner, landowner and owner of the tower to remove and dismantle the tower and to notify the Planning Department. Also, with that it, they were encouraging co-location of towers.

Chair Holt asked if there was a problem with a tower being effective in a location, was it possible to was it possible to mitigate that with a second tower? Ms. Quigley said they have a spacing standard. Mr. Knowles said typically the property owner has an agreement with the tower owner to cover property taxes.

PUBLIC HEARING: (Legislative) Consideration of Ordinance #2021-005 to adopt amendments to Subsection 2102, Section 5800 and Subsections 7201 and 7202 of the Land Development Code

Approval of Lower Interest Rate for the USDA Loan

Mr. Dixon introduced Item 9 and said it was for approval of a lower interest rate for the USDA loan and there will be another item, Item 9b added to that and the attorney would explain.

Mr. Knowles introduced Ms. JoLinda Herring, Esquire, with Bryant Miller & Olive Law firm, who appeared before the Board. She stated that the Board borrowed money from BB&T bank.

Commissioner NeSmith asked the amount of the loan. Ms. Herring stated the loan pay-off was \$632,000 but the Board was borrowing the Bond that will be given as evidence and that total amount was \$674,588. Commissioner NeSmith said they would no longer have to pay off the bank, but they pad to pay-off the bond. She explained it had a 30-year repayment period. He asked if there was a pre-payment penalty and she stated no, actually they would like it to be paid early.

Commissioner NeSmith asked what funds were available through that agency for other projects. She said through that agency, they do capital projects. Depending on the project, they will loan money for a forty-year period.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if the rate was competitive. She stated it was pretty competitive and depended on what rate you were given at the time of closing. He asked what determined that rate. Ms. Herring the agency but they could also borrow money through the bank or do a public offering where they would ask investors to invest.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if she had a list of programs and she explained.

Chair Holt said she thought it was better if it was set out and then pay down on the principal.

Mr. Knowles asked she go over the rates.

Ms. Herring said when they approve the loan, they set the rate of the loan. The current rate was 2.7%

Confirmation of a Planning Commissioner for Commission District One

Mr. Dixon stated item 11 was the "Love Where You Live" campaign. He said they had been talking about litter for a long time and this was the response they came up with. He said they have the funding in-house for the program. They wanted to make sure the attitude was they will be funding this on an annual basis.

Approval of AshBritt, Inc. for Emergency Debris Management Services

Mr. Dixon introduced item 12 and said it was the contract for emergency debris removal. Mr. Knowles said there were two vendors who were here. After Hurricane Michael, they had two contractors and the County was not satisfied with their services and put this back out for bid. He said they have added a minority participation clause and a clause that required or assisted with hiring locals to help. They have to have a contract in place for FEMA reimbursement. With Hurricane Michael, the County was hit pretty hard and if there is no contract in place, it could be costlier and not as efficient.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if there were two separate vendors. Mr. Knowles stated one was the prime and the other was the sub. Chair Holt said there were two vendors before and she elaborated.

2. Presentation from Granicus (Michael Kohan, Regional Sales Manager/Alex Chacon, Account Manager/Bryon Gillin, Account Manager)

Ms. Steele introduced the above item and introduced Byron Gillan (sp), Alex Ducase (sp) and Michael Koband (sp) from Granicus. They were made aware of the need for a new website.

Byron Gillan (sp) appeared remotely before the Board. He said they have four goals:

- To make the County more accessible;
- Help with streamlining staff.
- Create a digital curb appeal.
- Walk through a customer journey.

Commissioner Green stated that he loved this idea but his main question was the cost. Mr. Gillan said they created a platform and explained same.

Chair Holt asked how an individual would get a building permit and he showed the process.

Commissioner Green asked if there was staff to do daily maintenance. Mr. Gillan said it was all backed up on a daily basis and has 24/7 support. Ms. Steele explained each department would have training. Each department would be responsible for their department and website.

Mr. Dixon stated that they are the company that the County was already using. This would be an upgrade.

Mr. Knowles said he always erred on the side of competitive bid process. This was a lot of money to be spending out and was a procurement policy he felt they should either do an RFQ or an RFP.

Ms. Steele interrupted and stated they were a State contractor so they did not have to go through the RFP or RFQ process. She said they also already had a contract and Ms. Ford could provide that contract. She also was sure that either Ms. Ford or the Assistant County Administrator could explain the process when there was a state contractor, there was no need to bid for the service because they were unique in the product they provide.

Mr. Knowles stated they would have that discussion at that a later date.

Chair Holt stated they needed to upgrade.

Commissioner Viegbesie entered the workshop at 5:39 p.m.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, THE WORKSHOP WAS DECLARED ADJOURNED AT 5:40 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**BRENDA A. HOLT, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk