



**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON APRIL 6, 2021, 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, Clerk’s Office

**CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

 Chair Holt welcomed everyone at 6:01 p.m., called the meeting to Order, 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 said he would like to add 9b-Approval of Capital Improvements of Revenue Bond; pull Items 5-Approval of Code Enforcement Lien Satisfaction (Parcel ID No, 3-11-22-4W-0000-00321-0700) and Item 13-Proposed Addendum to the FCI Contract.

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

1. Ratification Memo
2. Approval of Minutes
  - March 27, 2020-Emergency Meeting
  - July 24, 2020-Disaster Recovery Meeting
  - July 24, 2020-Emergency Meeting
  - July 29, 2020-Disaster Recovery Meeting
  - November 17, 2020-Regular Meeting
  - January 21, 2021-Regular Meeting
3. Approval and Signatures for Special Assessment Liens State Housing Initiative Partnership Program (SHIP) (Down Payment and Closing Cost Assistance Program)
4. Approval and Signatures for Satisfaction of Special Assessment Lien

5. ~~Approval of Code Enforcement Lien Satisfaction (Parcel ID No. 3-11-22-4W-0000-00321-0700)~~  
Item Pulled
6. **Approval of Code Enforcement Lien Satisfaction**
7. **Approval of Amendment No. 1 to Agreement No. SC108 Small County Consolidated Waste Grant**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

**CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Due to COVID-19 and the efforts of 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](mailto:CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov) and anticipate receiving a response within 48 hours.



Commissioner NeSmith read aloud the COVID-19 statement.



**Bishop Willie Green, 296 Bradwell Road, Quincy, FL** appeared before the Board. He said all of Gadsden County was praying for their success. He encouraged them to always serve with a mind of humility and be committed to serve to the best of their ability and to always try to be humble and respectful toward one another.

**Don Stewart, 102 Timber Run, Havana, FL** Chair Holt read aloud his email.

“I had the pleasure to participate in the workshops and public hearings for the much needed proposed amendments to the Telecommunications Tower ordinance. I would like to offer my compliments to the Planning Commission, Ms. Quigley and Ms. Jeglie for a thorough and careful consideration of these changes and for carefully considering and accepting recommendations from industry representatives and citizens and striking a very good balance. Therefore I support this amended ordinance and recommend Option 1.”


**Marion Laslie, 5 Dante Court, Quincy, FL** Chair Holt read aloud her email.

“I hope you will support the Planning Commission’s recommendations as presented in the present code. Homeowners and land owners need to have notice of developments that might affect the value of their property. They need to be able to address the visual impacts that a cell tower would have on their landscape as seen from their homes. I understand the need for better access to digital information but do not think that residential property values need to be compromised to achieve this goal. There are many options still available for digital input such as the existing landline system, satellite service, an alternate provider that has better coverage and now the Figgers contract. We do not need our horizon covered with telecommunication towers every 3 miles because the industry desires fewer restrictions. A 5 mile separation was also discussed and is a good idea.

Please be reasonable in how you rewrite the codes and do not degrade the County's tax base by allowing industrial impacts to devalue our homes and property market value.  
Even more stringent setback allowances would protect the value of the County's tax base.  
Thank you"

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**


#### **8. PUBLIC HEARING-(Legislative) Consideration of Ordinance #2021-002 to adopt amendments to Subsection 2102, Section 5800 and Subsection 7201 and 7202 of the Land Development Code**

 Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval and adoption of Ordinance 2021-005 to approve amendments to Subsection 2102, Definitions, Section 5800 Communication Towers, and Subsections 7201 and 7202, Type I and Type II Procedures of the Gadsden County Land Development Code (LDC) pertaining to telecommunication towers.

 **Diane Quigley, AICP, Growth Management Director**, stated for the record the corrected Ordinance Number is 2021-002.


She stated this was a modification to their Land Development Code, specifically the Telecommunications Tower regulations. She said they heard the current code was found to be very restrictive. She gave a brief overview of the changes to the revised Ordinance.

She listed options for the Board to choose from.

 Chair Holt said for public's knowledge, the Agenda was out, the Commissioners are asked to meet with the Administrator if they have any questions before the meeting, there is a workshop before the 6:00 meeting and the items could be viewed on-line.

She announced this was a public hearing and asked if there were any comments from the public and there were none.


 Commissioner Viegbesie asked if the Planning and Zoning considered the possibility of radio interference and gave examples.

 Ms. Quigley said she had not heard accounts of such as he explained; they could only regulate the locations of the towers but could not regulate the frequencies, services, etc. They could encourage co-locations on towers.

Chair Holt asked if any other questions and there were none.


Mr. Dixon said there was a question in the workshop about LEO and EMS using existing towers for emergency management.

Chair Holt said the hurricane was so intense they had no communication because towers were out. She asked about using some of the towers for emergency management and felt they could do so and would require generators also.

 Commissioner NeSmith asked if they needed to include additional language to the current Ordinance. Mr. Knowles asked if they wanted to add that language to the current language. Mr. Knowles explained they could accept or reject the Planning Commission's recommendations and if they wanted to add or take away language, they could do that now. Mr. Dixon asked what the language would be.

Ms. Quigley said where possible, to encourage/require providers to consider...


Commissioner Green asked if they could vote for it contingent upon adding language and Mr. Knowles said if they went that way, he and Ms. Quigley could collaborate with language and then the Chair could sign.

 **COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE CONTINGENT ON THE ATTORNEY AND MS. QUIGLEY WORKING ON ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE AND CHAIR CAN THEN SIGN UPON SATISFACTORY CONSTRUCTION OF THE VERBAGE. CHAIR HOLT SAID TO AMEND FOR EMERGENCY USE. COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE AS AMENDED.**

#### **GENERAL BUSINESS**


**9. Approval of Lower Interest Rate for the USDA Loan**

Mr. Dixon deferred explanation of this item to Mr. Knowles.

 Mr. Knowles introduced the above item and said it was for board approval of the reduction of the interest rate regarding the project financing for the new Agricultural Extension Building. He added there was no fiscal impact on this item.


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

**9b Board approval of the not to exceed \$675,000 Gadsden County, FL Capital Improvement Revenue Bond, Series 2021**

 Mr. Knowles explained this item and said it was for approval of a Resolution which would authorize and approve the not to exceed \$675,000 Gadsden County, Florida Capital Improvement Revenue Bond, Series 2021.

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


**10. Confirmation of a Planning Commissioner for Commission District One**

 Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and explained an existing member of the Planning Commission had recently resigned. Commissioner Hinson has recommended Mr. Eugene Sherman, III to fill that vacancy.

Mr. Eugene Sherman appeared before the Board.

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

**11. Love Where You Live Campaign**

 Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. He said the Commissioners have asked for months for ways to address trash on the streets around the County.

 **Leslie Steele, Public Information Officer**, appeared before the Board.

She said they were very excited about this agenda item and administration was launching an anti-litter campaign “Love Where You Live-Keep Gadsden County Beautiful” on June 20, 2021. The cost of the campaign for the remainder of this fiscal year is \$50,000 and more funds will be needed next year to stay beautiful. She explained they were currently in the pre-launch phase of the program. She added the County would start picking up bulky items beginning April 12<sup>th</sup> – May 13<sup>th</sup> in the unincorporated areas of the County. She stated they were re-launching the Adopt-A-Road program.

She said the Administrator and staff were taking the directives seriously from the Board and was working on setting times on Monday to pick up litter voluntarily during the work day.

She said they would like to launch the campaign on June 20<sup>th</sup> and the campaign deliverables would include billboard, radio commercials, social media, t-shirts, newspapers ads, roadway signs, yard signs, window clings, and the website content would be updated continuously as well as Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.


She further stated that community partnerships were where everyone would play a role. The campaign would not be effective if there was not buy-ins from all the Constitutional Officers.


Public Works was working on a budget to bring back dumpsters in each district.


**Vehicle Wrap**


She added they would see if Big Bend Transit was interested in wrapping the Gadsden Express and will purchase more if others were interested.


The campaign was based on five key principals; it encourages personal responsibility and positive action, work in partnership with neighbors, take responsibility for keeping your own immediate area clean, raise awareness in education about prevention of littering and make it easy for people to not drop litter.

 Commissioner Viegbesie said he was elated with regards to what he had just seen. He said people have to be proud of where they live. His only suggestion was he was not in support of yard signs and would not encourage that. He would encourage permanent road signs to be added to stop signs, etc. He also added this would require financial support. He also loved the idea of wrapping the County vehicles.

 Commissioner Green said to not to be redundant, but he commended the Administrator and the PIO in making this a reality. He would also like to see bumper stickers added to the campaign.

 Commissioner Viegbesie said one thing he had asked for, he was in a lot of remote, virtual meetings and he has asked the IT Department to develop a background filter that would help develop and market the County easier.

 Commissioner NeSmith said he could not commend everyone enough for coming up with this campaign.


 Commissioner Hinson said he thought it was a great idea and asked if it was up for a vote tonight and was told yes. He felt before they jumped into it, with bulky item pick-up, they do that every year. He asked about Waste-Pro and what kind of contract they have with them and would it interfere with them.


Chair Holt asked if he wanted to put that on the Agenda and have them come regarding the contract. He said before they jump into it, they needed to make sure they were in compliance with Waste-Pro.


Mr. Dixon said this was just about the campaign. Bulky item pick-up was for a later discussion.

Chair Holt asked the will of the Board.

 **COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THIS PROJECT WITH A REVISION THAT ENSURED NON-CONFLICT WITH SERVICES OF TRASH PICK-UP WITH WASTE PRO SERVICES.**


 Ms. Steele said the \$50,000 they were requesting was for marketing and not the dumpsters. She said they were asking the Board to give \$50,000 to allow Sachs Media Group to make media buys to do the marketing plan.


 **COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AMENDED HIS MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF \$50,000 FOR THE MARKETING OF THIS CAMPAIGN AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. CHAIR HOLT ADDED SHE WOULD LIKE TO SEE “DON’T LITTER” ADDED TO “LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE”. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD A COMMENT.**

 Commissioner Hinson said he did not have heartburn with the company, but they paid \$65,000 to the same company a few months ago, paid them \$25,000 a few weeks ago and now they were paying them \$50,000 today. He added they had two full-time people that the County was paying to do marketing. He asked the logic in paying two full-time people and then pay a company for marketing?

**CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.**

**12. Approval of AshBritt, Inc. for Emergency Debris Management Services**


 Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval of entering into a contract with AshBritt, Inc. for emergency debris management services.


 Mr. Knowles said this was discussed in the 4:30 workshop. This was the first of two contracts being submitted for their approval for debris removal services. He explained there was no fiscal impact until such time as they were engaged and he explained the contract terms.

**Holly Raschein, AshBritt, Inc,** appeared remotely.


Chair Holt asked that they may have people that want to work during/after the hurricane. What would they have to do to be certified.

Ms. Raschein said they would love to use local contractors, they have a process and would love to have a number of local contractors that were pre-certified. She explained they could go to their website, [www.AshBritt.com](http://www.AshBritt.com) for the registration site.


 Commissioner Hinson asked them to look at page 2 of 22 where it stated “staff is recommending entering into a contract with two (2) companies” but the option was to approve the contract with one company.


 Mr. Knowles said the second contract will come before them, this contract was only for AshBritt. They will work in conjunction with each other.


Commissioner Hinson said he was unsure who the other company was, they should approve AshBritt and Ceres because it was on the agenda and Staff was recommending two companies. Also, when there is an emergency, the County Administrator was similar to a secretary, he no longer “ran the show”, the Chair would call the shots. He said also local participation was a “pet peeve” of his. The problem he had was all the minority participation was not local. He said with the word “encourages” did not mean they **had** to do business with local vendors.

 Chair Holt asked the attorney, the funds received would be federal and he responded yes, through FEMA usually. She said there was a percentage on minority contracts.


Mr. Knowles said the Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) 200.321 was where the “encouraged” language came from and was not a requirement within CFR that they do that. He said there is a separate clause that dealt with local participation. He said his only concern was if they mandated and then did not have anyone that could qualify or signed up, how would they execute the contract.

 **Casey Clayton** appeared before Board. He encouraged the Board to not require that language to mandate but to keep it “encouraged”. He said he was new to Gadsden County, worked with his brother and they have a small company that does cleaning and was trying to get into helping their community recover after storms. He felt it was great for anyone that was willing to work to have the opportunity to help their community.

 Commissioner Green said he thought Commissioner Hinson was intending for local participation, they just need to register at the website. He asked the Attorney if they could include environmental services as part of the vote tonight.

 Commissioner Viegbesie said Commissioner Green eluded to his comment with local participation. Ms. Raschein eluded to it, they need to encourage local business owners to pre-qualify to meet the eligibility requirements in advance of a disaster.

 Mr. Dixon said if it was the will of the Board, Ms. Raschein has offered to help.


 Commissioner Hinson said in all fairness, he was not sure what was going on. Almost everyone he knew drove trucks and had bobcats.


Chair Holt said she understood what he was saying. Now they know better and will do better.


 Commissioner NeSmith asked what companies were primarily responsible for removing debris.

Chair Holt said they had D&J and JB Coxwell. D&J was a larger company and those type companies go from one disaster to another anywhere in the country. When the hurricane hit, they had no idea it would be that bad. When it did hit, they were lucky they had two companies already under contract.


Commissioner NeSmith asked if any local companies were able to partner and was told yes; they put ads in the newspaper. She added they were not prepared then, they were now getting prepared.

 Mr. Knowles explained he found in Section 5.11 of the contract, he found where it stated Utilizing Local Resources that “Contractor ‘shall...’” and when a contract stated shall, you were going to do it.

 Chair Holt explained the language where it stated “encouraged” for minorities but stated “shall” do it for local contractors.

 Chair Holt then asked the Attorney why the other contract was not brought forward. Mr. Knowles said he brought the prime contract forth first.

Chair Holt said they were voting on one contract at a time.

 Commissioner NeSmith asked if the language he just read was incorporated in the contract that they had the option of voting on tonight and he stated yes.


Chair Holt asked for the will of the Board.



**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONTRACT AS PROVIDED AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Hinson asked where the language was located and Mr. Knowles said in Section 5.11 and was on page 15 of 22.

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

 commissioner Viegbesie said since the Ceres contract was ready to approve, and would like to make a motion to approve the contract contingent on providing it to the commissioners and if no concerns...

Mr. Knowles said he could bring it to the meeting the next day and Chair Holt said she would like to see it. Commissioner Viegbesie said it could be added to the Agenda for the next day and asked if he needed to make a motion.

**13. Proposed Addendum to the FCI Contract**


Item Pulled

**CLERK OF COURT**

**14. Updates**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**


**15. Updates**

 *Commissioner Green stepped out at 7:30 p.m.*

Mr. Dixon said there would be a meeting tomorrow at 6:00 p.m. regarding the Figgers Communication contract.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

**16. Updates**


 Mr. Knowles stated they were still working on the law clerk program and asked to put a workshop together at some point to discuss it in a little more detail and said they could piggyback that on any other workshop to get feedback from Commissioners.

*Commissioner Green returned at 7:32 p.m.*

**DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

**17. Report and Discussion of Public Issues**

**Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1**

 Commissioner Hinson thanked the Administrator and Public Works for providing great service to District 1 and said they were doing an awesome job. He also thanked the attorney for making the last item clear.


He said he would like to bring back as an agenda item the Summer Youth Employment and wanted to bring back 125 jobs. He said they could vote on it the next meeting. He added that mental health was a killer for a lot of people.


He also wanted to add Emergency Housing repairs, he said they had \$20,000 per district before the hurricane.


Chair Holt asked if he wanted to add that to the 4:30 workshop and he said yes and he would also like to vote for \$50,000 instead of \$20,000.

Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Dixon if they were already working on the summer youth program and he said yes.


Commissioner Hinson said he wanted 125 jobs in the summer youth program in 2 weeks.

 He said he had a Christmas gift given to him by the Clerk and he said all the money has been pulled down by the CARES Act, he thought \$3.7 Million and had \$1.3 remaining. He said the citizens were hurting heavily and bad. He would like the Board to discuss having half the money to go to the Residence Assistance program and the other half to the Small Business Assistance program. He also wanted to give people the opportunity to re-apply.

 Chair Holt said that would have to be workshopped and they had to plan that.

 Mr. Dixon said once they knew what the number was, they would bring it forward with the plan for the Board's perusal and it would be workshopped. He added that currently, there was no budget for summer youth, they were working with two big partners.


**Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, District 3**

 Commissioner NeSmith said dates were given and asked for dates of the campaign again. Mr. Dixon said they will get them to the Commissioners.

He said Commissioner Green made a comment earlier regarding the presentation for the website and felt it was very informative. They need a new website but like Commissioner Green said, they were talking about a lot of resources being dedicated to the creation of the website and making it interactive and thought they might need a workshop on how they were going to move forward on that and may need to get with the attorney to see if they needed to do an RFP on it.

Chair Holt she thought they were going to work that out and said she asked the attorney to look up what the State opinion was on using State Contracts.

**Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5**

 Commissioner Green said he had his hand up when Commissioner Hinson was talking so passionately about the CARES Act funding and the Summer Youth Program because that was something he was hoping the Administrator would give his input to because he had a question. He did give some information in reference to monies they had and monies that they were already spending and was glad he did intervene and give his recommendation on the plans.


He added he would like to have a schedule of road-side cuttings in the districts.

He said he was pleased with the striping of the roads in his district.


He said he received a letter from Janice Harris-Simmons that coordinated the prayer last week and read it out loud.

He also said if someone had to bury a loved one due to COVID and it was on the death certificate, there was a possibility of receiving up to \$7,000 for assistance with funeral bills.


**Commissioner Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, District 2**


 Commissioner Viegbesie commended everyone for what they have been doing for the good of Gadsden County and added they should do nothing from selfishness or conceit but with humility of mind.

**Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4**

 Chair Holt said she thought they were doing better with moving forward and they had to do so in a positive way.

She asked if they could get a list of cutting and striping for the districts.

 Commissioner Green said it was a pleasure to meet the new grant writer yesterday.

 Commissioner NeSmith asked if they had received follow-up information from Dr. Gabrielle Gabrielli yet. Mr. Dixon said they had received that and would be getting it out to the Commissioners

**Receipt and File**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
April 6, 2021-Regular Meeting

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**



**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:57 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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

**ATTEST:**

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**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**