

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON APRIL 20, 2021 AT 6:00 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
Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

****Chair started meeting without Deputy Clerk present, had a moment of silence and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag ****

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Dixon asked to add 5a-Approval of Federal Legislative Community Projects Request to be Submitted for Gadsden County to the Consent Agenda; 5b-Approval of the Support Letter for Gadsden Senior Services to the Consent Agenda; and 6a-Approval of Response Letter to the Joint Legislative Auditing Committee Regarding a Repeat Audit Finding to General Business.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked to pull Items 5a and 5b for discussion.

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

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

1. Presentation of Cares 2 Program

Mr. Dixon introduced the CARES 2 program. He said they expected the money to come down mid-to late May and expect it to be \$8.9 Million. The County has not received any Treasury direction on the money, but understood it would be coming in two piles, the first in May and second half not until March 2022. He said they have laid out a program to start June 1st. He added that date was moveable depending on when they received the information and the ability to get ready. They intend on the first 30 days, to host workshops county-wide to inform and pre-qualify citizens for all programs created by the Board, including the landlords for emergency rental assistance program and the tenants for emergency utilities program. In pre-qualifying, they hoped to get anyone that applied for any program ready and pre-qualified to be submitted for funding in that program. In the second 60 days, they will be open to receive applications from all funded programs; qualified applications will be processed to be funded, they will continue stations around the County that will be manned for continued help and referral. He said their one goal was to get that money to the people. He added there were many separate pots of money coming down that was not there last time; cities will receive their own money; utilities will receive their money and many other organizations that the Board was

responsible for looking out for that they will not have that obligation to this time. They have expressed they still wanted to put money into small business and try to get money down to people at the lowest level.

Karen Wells, 373 East Jefferson Street, Quincy, FL appeared before the Board. She wanted to find out more about the CARES Act money from the first draw-down. She has talked with a lot of people that said they were denied, which meant to her there should be more money from the first go-round. She asked if it had been depleted or was there still money available.

Mr. Dixon said there was individual funding of \$1.3 Million.

Ms. Wells asked if there was a sense of urgency to help the people?

Chair Holt said there was a sense of urgency to help, but they wanted to make sure they were doing it so they could get it done. She said last time it was done, one reason why was there was a concern was because of the application, because of the unknowing and lack of preparation. She said they have to do that now.

Ms. Wells said a lot of people had problems with the application, retrieving the information and a lot did not have the know-how.

Mr. Dixon said he knew \$1.3 Million looked nice, but asked if they did not accept staff recommendation, to roll it into the time frame and said part of their situation was stacking up to do the program and was quite expensive. He said the time frame would remain the same because they were counting on a lot of other people to be a part of this program in order to roll it out right and not experience what they experienced last time.

Chair Holt said they intend to have workshops on this.

Commissioner Hinson said for the record, he brought this up in the workshop earlier, the money was intended for the people and small businesses. He said he asked the Board two weeks ago to put it on the Agenda and it was not on there tonight.

Commissioner Green said it was good to hear from the community. He asked the Chair if they could schedule a date now while they were talking about it.

Chair Holt said for them to look at their calendars.

Mr. Dixon said there was some back-room stuff that required time. Part of the problem was they did not staff up properly in the previous roll-out. They want to solve as many problems as they possibly could.

Chair Holt said a lot of things were stalled in the system and several times had to get legal opinions. She said they need to workshop it and work some of the problems out.

Ms. Wells said she was able to get it rather quickly but she had to help them do their job.

Commissioner Hinson said if he was not mistaken, Ms. Wells and others were talking about the \$1.3 Million that was there now.

Chair Holt stepped out at 6:25 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson said the Board paid Integrity almost \$1 Million; he had no problem with them, but wanted to provide staff for them, gave them office space, and then they have a problem with FCI when they were going to provide services, marketing, product, everything. He said why were they making these decisions when they were paid almost \$1 Million.

Chair Holt returned at 6:26 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson mentioned how much had been paid to Integrity over time. (Then he and Chair Holt started talking over each other and it became inaudible to transcribe.)

Chair Holt said they were going to workshop this and do as other Counties were doing.

Commissioner Viegbesie said this was something he intended when amending the agenda and suggested they move Item 14 to under the Presentations for discussion of the program.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO MOVE ITEM 14 FROM GENERAL BUSINESS TO UNDER PRESENTATIONS SO IT COULD BE MADE AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

14. 2021 Summer Youth Program

Mr. Dixon introduced the agenda item and **Ms. Kim Moore, TCC Workforce Development** appeared before the Board.

Ms. Moore gave a brief synopsis of the Gadsden Youth Initiative. She spoke on the current landscape and how Gadsden had the highest unemployment rate; workforce challenges; program design; anticipated outcomes; key stakeholders and the next steps. She said Gadsden County had maintained the highest unemployment numbers. She mentioned some of the anticipated stakeholders were the Gadsden County Board of County Commission; Tallahassee Community College; Gadsden County School District; Gadsden County Development Council; and CareerSource Capital Region. Investing in Gadsden youth has never been more critical as it was now; collaboration was critical to community success; and alignment with industry was the key ingredient for growth and job creation.

Mr. Dixon said they wanted to build a robust program, that not only fed off the BOCC money but everyone involved. He said they could host more youth, give deeper and more depth to the programs and his goal was to make the program go year-round, not just the summer.

Commissioner Viegbesie commended Mr. Dixon for this vision. He said this would train and give the skillset to help attract industry to the area. He said the 100 students was a pilot number and had the capability to grow to 500 to 1,000 participants.

Ms. Moore explained the program and elaborated while they were in training, they would receive a stipend, once they transitioned to a work environment, they would receive minimum wage.

Commissioner Viegbesie said when they vet the youth and they might could adopt the FAMU SDI model where every company wanted to hire an intern that came to them from FAMU. He said everyone that went through that program was disciplined, had a positive work ethic and was professional. He felt that was a great foundation for growing the youth.

Commissioner Green thanked her for the presentation and hoped she could talk about the stipend. He added he was a recipient of being part of the summer program when he was in high school. His main question was the timeframe. Did they think this could be launched in the next few weeks? Ms. Moore said with all the partners they had around the table, they could do this.

Commissioner NeSmith echoed what he heard from the other commissioners. He said this spoke to the vision statement they created earlier and the partnership, which was a key.

Commissioner Hinson said this was one of many things he asked to be brought to the Board. He felt this should be in addition to the 125 jobs he hoped to have.

Chair Holt said she wanted to have people trained on industrial certification and with that industries would want to hire people.

CONSENT

Commissioner Viegbesie asked to pull items 5a and 5b just to be explained for the purpose of transparency.

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

- 1. Ratification Memo**
- 2. Approval of Minutes**
 - **February 2, 2021 – Workshop**
 - **March 2, 2021 – Regular Meeting**
 - **March 10, 2021 – Emergency Meeting**
 - **March 29, 2021 – Emergency Meeting**
- 4. Support Letter for Congressional Legislation**
- 5. Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Liens and Rehabilitation Contract – SHIP**
- 5a. Approval of Federal Legislative Community Projects Request to be Submitted for Gadsden County**

Mr. Dixon said this was for approval of Federal Legislative Community Projects and this project had been submitted by the Town of Havana. He added the Congressman reopened the

submission process and asked that all programs to come before the BOCC for approval before being submitted to his office.

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

5b. Approval of Support Letter for Gadsden Senior Services

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval of a support letter for Gadsden Senior Services.

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

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

5a. Approval of Federal Legislative Community Projects Request to be Submitted for Gadsden County

5b. Approval of Federal Legislative Community Projects Request to be Submitted for Gadsden County

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 and anticipate receiving a response within 48 hours.

Commissioner NeSmith read aloud the COVID Statement.

Chair Holt said she had a couple to read and would make it brief as the Chambers were now open to the public and people could now appear in person.

Dr. Joe Parramore, 6099 Pat Thomas Parkway, Quincy, FL appeared before the Board regarding the Greensboro Fire Department. He said there has been ongoing problems with the Town of Greensboro and the Greensboro Fire Department and they have reached an impasse. He said the Town has shown an unwillingness to continue conversations with the first responders of that fire district. He said they contend the budget has been mis-used through mis-guided direction leaving the firefighters without appropriate PPE and apparatus to respond appropriately. Because of recent events, the ISO Fire ratings now has a potential of rising insurance premiums and insurance deductibles. He further stated it was clear that the existing interlocal fire service agreement was specific to the Town of Greensboro and Gadsden County and was a legal and binding contract. He said every fire fighter was still serving their community through other departments until such time there is an amicable resolution. He also said the Greensboro volunteers were now known as the Greensboro Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., a Florida Non-Profit corporation.

Danny Hunter, 202 East Lake Road, Quincy, FL appeared before the Board. He said the last time he appeared before the Board he was the Assistant Chief of the Greensboro Fire Department. He said one thing that remained consistent was the dangers were the same, ever present and did not discriminate whether the responder was a volunteer or a career fire fighter. He said their request was simple and they stand to gain nothing. His desire was this body could broker a resolution to this problem.

Chair Holt thanked them for their comments. She asked Mr. Dixon if this was something they could look into.

Mr. Dixon said he had contacted the Town of Greensboro and they stand by the decisions they have made as a Town and the Board does have a contract with them. He said they know small fire stations may not put all of their money into fire equipment. He said they have always given leniency in that. He said once they realized the fire fighters had walked away and were no longer serving Greensboro, the Chief of Fire and Emergency Service was redirected to formulate a plan to serve Greensboro and the surrounding areas until the Town of Greensboro reached an understanding with their internal situation.

Commissioner Green asked what the financial stipend was given to the Town of Greensboro. Mr. Dixon said it was \$31,000 annual. Commissioner Green asked if they could make a motion for this to be put on the Agenda.

Chair Holt explained she felt it would be better if they wanted to look at this, let the Administrator know, they had a contract with the Town and they were the ones they had to deal with over the contract.

Commissioner Viegbesie reminded this was comments by the citizens and should not be discussed. Chair Holt agreed and said they could make comments under their comments later.

Stanley Sims, 1320 Avondale Way, Tallahassee, FL appeared before the Board regarding the CARES Act.

Commissioner Hinson said he will make a motion at the end of this meeting to allow him to make a presentation to the Board. Chair Holt said they will be having a workshop that will be open to the public.

Commissioner Hinson said in reality, been following him over years and his courage of fighting good fight. He added he would like to put him on the Agenda for his company to present to the Board and he would have a chance to talk.

Commissioner Green stepped out at 7:36 p.m.

Chair Holt then read aloud Don Stewart's email. (Email will be scanned in and follow the Minutes.)

Commissioner Green returned at 7:39 p.m.

She read aloud another statement from Don Stewart regarding Citizens to be Heard. (Will also be attached to the Minutes.)

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

6. Discussion and Approval of the Extension of the Family First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) with the Recent Passage of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA)

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval from the Board regarding the extension of the Family First Coronavirus Response Act.

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

6a. Approval of Response Letter to the Joint Legislative Auditing Committee Regarding a Repeat Audit Finding

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was presented for Board approval of a response letter to the Joint Legislative Auditing Committee regarding a repeat audit finding.

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

7. Resolution in Support for St. Hebron Road Sidewalk Project

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval to execute a Resolution in support for the Gadsden County BOCC to apply for a Transportation Alternatives Grant to construct a sidewalk along St. Hebron Road from Pt. Milligan Road to Fontana Trail, then down Fontana Trail to St. Hebron Park.

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

8. Approval of Work Authorization Agreement 2021-020 for Grant Program Consulting Services

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the Work Authorization Agreement 2021-2022 for Grant Program Consulting Services.

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

9. COVID-19 Loss of Life Memorial

Mr. Dixon said this item sought the Board's direction on a COVID-19 Loss of Life Memorial to be developed and presented back to the Board.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if this was just for construction of the memorial and what was the fiscal impact. Chair Holt explained it was up to \$20,000.

Commissioner Hinson said sometimes people did not want recognition because the loss could be too soon.

Chair Holt explained this was to recognize the number of people that have passed away from COVID, but was not for an individual.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked about this item and Chair Holt explained the discussion she had recently had with the Administrator.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he thought this was a wonderful idea.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO ALLOCATE UP TO \$20,000 FOR THE MEMORIAL AND THE ADMINISTRATOR TO COME BACK WITH A SPECIFIC PLAN/DESIGN OF THE MEMORIAL AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

10. Discussion and Action on Dental Equipment Owned by Gadsden County

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for discussion and action on dental equipment owned by Gadsden County. North Florida Medical, Gadsden Dental Outreach has been providing preventative dental services at the Gadsden County Schools and some of the dental equipment being used by North Florida Medical belonged to the County. Staff was contacted by NFM requesting that the dental equipment be donated to them in order to help expand services to children and to help the next generation of children.

Commissioner NeSmith said he wanted to make sure there were no plans they were aware of for the future.

Chair Holt said they have to recruit doctors and dentists in that area and to do so, there had to be a plan. The equipment was already being used and was old.

Commissioner Green said he had no problem with the donation but wanted to know the value of the equipment.

Commissioner Hinson said from what he was told, the chairs were worth over several hundred dollars.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if they had done something of this nature with the Neighborhood Medical services in Havana. Chair Holt said the chairs were leased to them.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT OPTION 1 AND MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

Commissioner Hinson said he thought they had 4, once they do that, it opens a can of worms. Mr. Dixon explained they were the only dental center and there was no rush to do this.

Chair Holt said to get the numbers and then bring this item back.

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

11. Approval of the Non-Profit/Human Services Funding Agreements and Interlocal Agreement for Human Senior Services

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the Non-Profit/Human Services Funding Agreements and Interlocal Agreements for Human Senior Services for FY2020-2021 and for authorization for the Chair to sign the agreements.

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.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked with them approving this item, was it honoring the request of Chattahoochee that the County should give up sovereign immunity. Mr. Knowles stated they were approving the agreements as they were.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE WITHDREW HIS MOTION AND COMMISSIONER HINSON WITHDREW HIS SECOND.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH BOCC RETAINING SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY ON ALL CONTRACTS AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

12. Approval of the Temporary Road Closures Pursuant to Completion of the Railroad Crossing Replacement on SR 267 (North Adams Street/Bainbridge Hwy) 550' North of Dezell Street

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was for approval of the temporary road closure pursuant to completion of the railroad crossing replacement on SR 267 (North Adams Street/Bainbridge Highway) 550' north of Dezell Street.

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

13. Approval of Code Enforcement Lien Satisfaction

Mr. Dixon said this item was approval of the Code Enforcement Lien Satisfaction.

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

14. 2021 Summer Youth Program

This item was moved under Presentations

15. FCI Contract Addendum

Mr. Dixon introduced the item and said the attorney would be bringing the item. He apologized it wasn't sooner and said it was not done until earlier today.

Mr. Knowles explained they just received the revised language from FCI late this afternoon. The name of the corporation has been corrected. On page 1 and top of page 2, they added definitions...

Chair Holt interrupted (hand was raised in audience) and she asked if they could not hear. Bishop Green said "Citizens to be Heard". She said they would go through this and get input.

Bishop Green stated he was skipped over last time. Chair Holt said she told him to put his hand up this time because she forgot to call on him last time. She said they would get to him and asked if he had a copy of the agreement and he stated yes.

Mr. Knowles continued and said they clarified how the devices would be distributed, they amended the Force Majeure clause and explained if there was an act of God or some other intervening force that caused non-performance and FCI was unable to distribute the devices, that would not be held against them and same manner, if something happened to the Courthouse and they were unable to cut a check, it would not be held against the County. They clarified payment terms; added prevailing party attorney's fees in the event of lawsuits and clarified the verification of the devices that were handed out at the prior distribution during the month of February. He said they could go over each addition or subtraction if they liked with regard to going through the contract and would be happy to do so. He said aside from one or two lingering issues regarding payment, and he had discussed that with Ms. Brown and felt the County needed 30 days at least effectuate payment from the date of an itemized invoice was submitted, additionally, he did have a concern regarding IMEI (which is defined in the definitions) versus a serial number. He said his understanding was the IMEI was the device number that identified the type of device and serial number would identify the particular device. He said originally there was a removal of the Surety Bond language but that has been left in and FCI has agreed to remove the clause from the prior contract regarding overage. He said if they recalled in the prior agreement there was an overage clause where for every 50 GB of data that a resident went over, the 50GB cap they received on the initial allocation, the County would be responsible for the additional \$10.00 per 50GB and FCI agreed to waive that so there were no issues there. The W-9 forms will need to be collected by the County and the County would need to appoint a County Representative who would be present when FCI brings the devices. He added that FCI, every two weeks would bring devices and leave up to 2,000 devices per weekend and get with the County Representative, will record the serial numbers of those devices, ensure how many devices were actually brought to the County and subsequent to that, on Saturday and Sunday at specific times listed in the contract, they would then be distributed to residents who would sign either electronically or paper form, an attestation form as described within the contract. He further stated the contract also gives Mr. Dixon the ability to shut things down and make changes without coming back to the Board. He said he was happy to answer any questions.

Chair Holt said to make sure the pages were numbered and would be able to view easier. She also cautioned them to be careful shuffling papers because it made it hard to hear.

Commissioner Hinson said he had some things highlighted on the original. Why were they asking for W-9 forms? Chair Holt said because they were getting something of value. Commissioner Hinson said why W-9's. Chair Holt said to go to FCI to see how they felt about the document.

Joycelyn Brown, FCI's Attorney, said she believed this agreement did accurately reflect all concerns, there were a few minor things that needed to be finalized; the timing of the payment for the devices that have already been delivered and outside of that, believed they had a very accurate reflection of where both parties stood.

Chair Holt asked Mr. Knowles for that section.

Mr. Knowles said there were multiple sections that dealt with payment.

He said in Section 5.3.2 on page 6, “The County shall be obligated to remit for payment to the Clerk of the Circuit the Itemized Invoice within ten (10) days of receipt (stated it was hard to read with underlines and strikethroughs) of the Itemized Invoice. Pursuant to Section 5.2, the County shall pay FCI the \$38.60 Device Fee and the \$32.00 Service Fee, per Device.”

Chair Holt asked that was for devices that were already delivered. Mr. Knowles said for devices that were already delivered, they developed a verification schematic and would have 30 days to complete that from the execution of this contract where they would take a random sample of twenty percent (20%) of the Attestations...

Chair Holt asked what page and section and Mr. Knowles stated it was on multiple pages and stated on page 1 under Definitions; on page 2 with Itemized Invoice; Section 1.1.5 Verification of Qualified Residents; and on Section 5.3.4. He stated it was in the Addendum and was not in the original Agreement.

Commissioner Hinson said if both attorneys agreed, he felt they should move forward.

Mr. Dixon said he was disappointed this took so long, however they had in place a process they thought would work and had enough control to allow them to move forward. They did not envision the process happening like this and did not have staff and it was not budgeted. He said it would require some time. He said they would meet their obligations and hoped the distribution will go a lot smoother.

Chair Holt asked Ms. Brown if she followed along with the County Attorney and she said yes. Chair Holt asked if he answered her questions or concerns and she said their primary concern was raised at the last meeting. There was some concern in the amount of time it will take to verify what has already been delivered.

Bishop Willie Green, 296 Bradwell Road, Quincy, FL, appeared before the Board. He said it sounded like he did not need to say anything tonight because both sides have worked on this. He said it was not unusual for parties to have differences with the contracts like this, this was a very different contract, included a device that had to be made especially for the County and when you have technical problems, they are usually worked out without as much difficulty as this seemed to have caused. He added that he felt because FCI has acted in good faith as he understood it and she did share with him a copy of what was presented tonight, they continue to service some of those devices that were distributed, and as much as they have given, 15 days not lot to be haggling over at this point. He was glad to hear they had resolved the issues and were down “to tightening one or two little screws”. He said there were more important issues to address than this issue.

Chair Holt read Don Stewart’s email regarding the contract.

Commissioner Viegbesie thanked the County for this work in progress; however, his concern was and, which was also a concern he received from calls from citizens, mainly in the Reston

area specifically and two calls from the Lake Tallavana community. They were concerned that an item was agendaed with an Addendum that was not available for them to preview before the meeting and they accused the Board of operating under a secrecy without being transparent. The other was, how many devices was FCI saying they had already submitted, and how were the Attestations being evaluated? Some citizens said they completed the application for the devices on-line and have not received any devices from FCI. Has the County validated that these items have been delivered?

Chair Holt said she was sure they were watching, the verification process has not taken place yet and there will be no payment until the verification was made, in a timely manner. The Administrator mentioned they had to have staff to verify that and they assured FCI that they were verifying for those items.

Commissioner NeSmith said he had several questions for Ms. Brown and Mr. Knowles. How was 20% derived as opposed to all of the Attestations being verified. Mr. Knowles said he and Mr. Dixon got together and originally thought, given time constraints and staffing, 20% was adequate. If it was the will of the Board to do more, they could do that.

Commissioner NeSmith said they had just received this and it was a marked-up copy, not a clean one. He said he would like to see a final draft. He thanked Ms. Brown in working so diligently with the County Attorney in moving this process forward. He said he had a chance to look over the Notebook that was sent to him and noticed some of the paperwork did not have complete information such as the identification information and last names. He asked what the total number of verifications or documents that the County had in their possession. Ms. Brown asked if he was saying that some of the documentation that was submitted to the County regarding the contract over the past few months had some incomplete information and he was now asking whether or not the County has been provided the accurate information and what exactly the information...Commissioner NeSmith said no, how many devices have already been distributed and based on that distribution, the Notebook he was sent, were those verifications of the devices? She said Mr. Bebe could address that, he was the one who compiled the information. She said it was her understanding that the information that was included had serial IME number for each device, the Letters of Attestation for each device as well as (inaudible) of the individual qualified resident as well as the daily usage for each device so the County could see that the devices had actually been delivered and the ones that were delivered had been used.

Mr. Bebe appeared remotely before the Board. Commissioner NeSmith asked if the items in the notebook was a reflection of the devices that have been distributed. Mr. Bebe said yes, that was why they gave out so much detail. Commissioner NeSmith said based on his review, quite a few of the documents had missing information. Mr. Bebe said it was unfortunate, there were some issues when it came to printing and was why he gave out corresponding data usage so they could see the devices were active. It was an issue they had when printing out all the Attestations, they will be pulling from that list. Commissioner NeSmith said he wanted to make sure they had all the necessary identifying information because at some point this program will be audited and they will need to make sure they had all the documentation and needed to verify every document as opposed to 20% because down the road, they would have to answer to each device. He wanted to make sure that whatever agency came to verify the information, their documentation was in order.

Chair Holt said each one of them has a packet and hopefully was information they would want to know anyway and verify. There are phone numbers and the Commissioners can call themselves.

Mr. Bebe said they also agreed to give the County full access to their data base with the attestations and will include what they have already done.

Commissioner NeSmith wanted to make sure the 20% language was removed. He wanted to verify every device 100% and any information that was inadvertently not included in that package, he wanted to make sure that every document was verified. Mr. Bebe said that was something he would have to work out with the County Administrator, they would do what they were supposed to do on their end.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he thought the information digitally was more detailed. He said he requested the information digitally and received it late this afternoon. He said it was easily verifiable. He said there were 13-14 folders and the first one was a folder of boxes, the other folder was a hand holding a cell phone with the time and date; the other folder was the one showing boxes on a crate and from there the folders have a number of names where you click and there is a drop-down and each one will have a photo, the ID of the applicant with their name, address, telephone number that was easily verifiable to determine whether they received the items or not. He said digital was easier to enter into the record and make it available to everyone. He added he thought the digital was easily verifiable and was the ones he would be looking at and calling the individuals to see who had received one or not. He added it was a work in progress and they would be very diligent and making sure they did not pay for something they never got.

Chair Holt said she did not think they wanted to give them anything that they could not verify. She asked the attorney if the Board wanted some type of consistency in doing the verification and take out the 20%. She asked the Administrator how he felt about that and he responded they would get the 600 done. She said for the Commissioners to not be bashful in checking in their own district because they could be helpful and do some work also. She asked if there were any other questions and said, if they need a clean copy, they could make their motion to approve and he could provide a clean copy.

Commissioner Hinson said before they make the motion, he needed to disclose he's had conversations with Mr. Figgers and FCI. Chair Holt said several of them have because he was from here and that had no bearing on this now.

Commissioner Viegbesie stepped out at 8:30 p.m.

Mr. Knowles asked if they were removing the 20% and Commissioner NeSmith said yes.

Chair Holt said they needed a motion.

COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE A MOTION THEY REMOVE THE LANGUAGE OF 20% TO 100%, TO VERIFY ALL DEVICES.

Chair Holt asked the Administrator if that was the wording he would like and Mr. Knowles said they would work on the wording with Ms. Brown.

Chair Holt said they have discussed it, have heard comments from the public.

Commissioner Hinson said they might should wait until Commissioner Viegbesie returned.

COMMISSIONER HINSON SAID HE WOULD SECOND IT.

Chair Holt asked the will of the Board and with the vote, they either come back or they don't.

Commissioner NeSmith stated there was a motion and a second.

CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if they were now at the agreement. Mr. Knowles stated they just passed it. Commissioner NeSmith said "No, we passed the motion for the verification of the devices." Mr. Knowles said that was the whole contract. Commissioner NeSmith then stated he had a question. He said he thought they were passing that motion to include that language in the contract. Mr. Knowles said no. Commissioner NeSmith said he had a question.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if there were any other issues in the contract, given the fact that there were a lot of strikethroughs and this was a contract in motion and they did not have a clean copy in front of them.

Mr. Knowles said they will amend that term and also thirty days for payment or remittance of payment. They will make that alteration for thirty days to remit payment. So, once the itemized invoice is received from FCI, there will be a time period to send it to the Clerk and a certain time period for the Clerk to remit payment.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if that was already in the contract and Mr. Knowles stated they would make that alteration for thirty (30) days to remit payment so once the itemized invoice was received from FCI, they have a time period to send it to the Clerk and a certain time period for the Clerk to remit payment.

Ms. Brown asked what was the Board's typical process of remitting payment to the Clerk. She understood that the Clerk had its own process for issuing payment, but was there a reason why it would take 30 days to submit payment to the Clerk?

Mr. Dixon said they did not have staff.

Commissioner Viegbesie returned at 8:33 p.m.

Mr. Knowles said it was not that it would not get remitted on the thirtieth day, there needs to be an intervening timeframe within which the County has the ability to pay, particularly in light

of the late fees, particularly in light of breach of contract issues. He said it may very well get paid faster, but if it was on the 29th day, they were still ok. It was to give them the ability but no reason it would be held up any longer than 30 days. If it was held up longer than 30 days, they had an issue. But if they only have 5-10 days with which to remit payment and that was not done, they are 1½% in the hole in terms of the late fee. He said he would not advise the County to be put into that kind of position. There needed to be some amount of time with which they had to make it happen to get them a check. He said it was the same thing his firm goes through and what other vendors go through. He said it would be submitted to the Clerk as soon as they receive it but it needed to go through that process. He said that was what he and she spoke about earlier and was what he and the Clerk spoke about today. He said they were trying to make sure it was done, but they had to give a little to get a little.

Ms. Brown said she appreciated the response.

Commissioner Viegbesie said to the Administrator he was going to request if the digital information that was sent to him today, please be sent to the rest of the Commissioners so they will have an easier access to the information. He said for the short time he got it, he already pulled out thirteen names and was preparing a spreadsheet for every name and was an easy way to verify the information to see they were doing the right thing.

Chair Holt told him she knew he stepped out but they took the vote and asked if he had a vote yea or nay. Then said they were moving on.

CLERK OF COURT

16. Updates

Chair Holt said he (the Clerk) didn't have anything.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

17. Updates

Mr. Dixon implored all of Commissioners to try to slow down little. He said realistically they were having trouble keeping up. He said it was hard to do quality in the timeframe they are putting on them.

He said in October 2020, the Board awarded a contract to Motorola and they previously approved the purchase of the Motorola capacity to match DMTT3 system, the lease of radio equipment Dispatch console and the new radio tower. The contract for civil work was awarded in the amount of \$435,448.43 and at the time of the contract award, it was indicated to the Board that the entire amount was included in the FY20-21 budget. He said their research has shown that did not happen, only \$109,000 was put in the budget and that would be enough for the debt service of the financing agreement but not what was proposed to the Board. He said there were a number of issues like that and they were actively working them out in the house, but this should have been brought to their attention immediately once staff found out about it at the beginning of the new fiscal year. He said they were dealing with the situation in-house. However, \$109,000 was not \$435,000 and that payment was coming soon. He said they will be bringing the Board some options, probably regarding financing of that amount, already have

contracts out there, and will be working with Motorola. He said as they cross these situations, they will be bringing back to the Board.

Chair Holt asked if he had someone in place to prevent this from happening again and he said that would be Ms. Daniels. Chair Holt said, in the future, if they need help in that department, that needed to be on the Agenda to get them help. He said they knew they need more positions now as opposed to later. He said how they get there would be the Board's decision, but they will present a number of opportunities. He said the Board was not demanding less and they had a less than optimal situation they were dealing with and was trying to not make mistakes.

Commissioner Hinson asked if that was a change order. Mr. Dixon said not a change order, it was an error. He said once it was done, it should have been brought back to the Board immediately for correction so they could either move money into that, because it was not put in there or agreed to some additional agreement.

Commissioner Hinson asked how much that contract was. Mr. Dixon said he was not certain, there were two or three provisions in that contract, it was a big contract.

Chair Holt said this was more on them and way why she said whatever it took to get that department straightened out, normally there were two-three people in that department.

Commissioner Viegbesie said that was an error with regards to staff not requesting a budget amendment that was not presented to the Board. Mr. Dixon said it was presented to the Board that the money was in the budget during the last fiscal year but it was not in the budget. Commissioner Viegbesie then said he knew there was a lot coming at the Administrator and staff rapidly and they were very ambitious but they needed to understand everything takes time.

He asked when they will get to meet the grant writer they just hired. Mr. Dixon said she was on Zoom but had left the meeting already.

Mr. Dixon said they can have the meeting on May 4th at 4:30 for the CARES Act 2.

Commissioner Green asked if that would be the only thing on the Agenda and suggested they make that the only item. Chair Holt asked if anything was planned and was that enough time and Mr. Dixon said no. Commissioner Green asked if they could hold it on a different day they were not scheduled to meet and wanted to make sure they were all available.

Mr. Dixon said they were trying to not have as many special meetings, they were expensive to advertise.

Commissioner Viegbesie said the good news was on the 4th, he was wide open and could make the meeting earlier if needed to.

Chair Holt asked if there was an interactive place on the website so people could leave messages or comments. She added the Order was still in place for 50 people or less and if they wanted to have another location because there might be a lot of people there, she was trying to

put out several possibilities. Mr. Dixon said anyone could email to the County at socialmedia@gadsdencountyfl.gov. and it would come to them.

Mr. Dixon said nothing was set in stone, they were throwing things against the wall and hoped some caught fire. Chair Holt said other Constitutionals received funding, they did not fund in the County itself. This part of the Government never got funded. She said they reimbursed at the Sheriff's Department and everywhere else that spent money. They needed to look at a few things they needed to do at that particular building because there will be high traffic.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

18 Updates

Mr. Knowles said he received a letter asking to join the Opioid litigation and asked for direction on how to proceed.

Chair Holt asked what the Board wanted to do and Commissioner Viegbesie said to agenda it.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

19. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson said he had three things. He asked them to put on the agenda 125 jobs for Summer Youth program; \$1.3 Million for half to go to residents and the other half to the Small Business Assistance program; and the Emergency Housing Assistance program for the Seniors and disabled. He said he knew they got funding for Hurricane Michael, but asked it to be put on the Agenda to help some of the Seniors and special needs people. He told the new commissioners he was actually a really nice guy, just loses his cool on certain items.

Mr. Dixon said he did not make the agenda, the Chairman did. Secondly, he does what the Board directs him to do. If a motion was made, it goes on the Agenda.

Chair Holt said the reason they hear the Administrator say that, that was the way the Board was originally set up. Over the years they have gone back and forth doing it different ways. At one time they all voted on what went on the Agenda. She said they need at least one or two people going over stuff when it comes because there were always things going on behind the scenes they never see.

Commissioner Hinson said from his understanding in the past, if the Board decided they wanted something on the agenda and no-one opposed it, it went on there. Chair Holt said no, that was not how it worked.

Chair Holt said two of the previous commissioners, before he was on the Board, would fight over the Agenda and there was no reason to hold up a meeting fighting. She told them instead of fighting, to put the item on the Agenda and discuss it when it was on there. Once that happened, they started calming down and was more of a strategy and she carried it on over.

Commissioner Viegbesie said if he understood correctly during his initial initiation into the Board, he received an Ordinance of Procedure that stated the County Administrator was the one that determined the items that goes on the Agenda and works in conjunction with the Chair to make sure the Agenda was not overloaded and had to work closely with the Attorney to make sure the language was correct; no item goes on the Agenda without the attorney's preview. His understanding was they could suggest an item be agendaed and then depending on the load of the agenda and when appropriate, it would go on.

Chair Holt said back to the history of this, the reason it changed over the years was the Board members changed and they changed the policy. She said one reason it changed was because they had to keep order in the room. They need extra eyes on agenda items before they go on to be advertised. They must have a process in place.

She told the Attorney this was an item he had to look at because he was the Parliamentarian.

Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, District 3

Commissioner NeSmith said they have the work coming because they have vision. He asked to place on the Agenda at some reasonable time to start planning for the County's 200-year anniversary.

He said they also need to revisit the strategic plan at some point.

Mr. Dixon said they have already some strategic plans and started issuing assignments to the Departments to be worked through and it was moving.

Commissioner NeSmith said the Chair alluded to a very important issue and asked if there were policy, guidelines and procedures that governed how they act in place. He added he knew Robert's Rules of Order impacted them to a certain point but felt they needed a workshop on the guidelines.

He said they were moving in a new direction with all the partnerships.

He congratulated Commissioner Viegbesie on his award, the Excellence in Leadership award from NACO (National Association of Counties).

Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5

Commissioner Green said to save time, he has concerns and will get with Ms. Quigley and Curtis Young in reference to his concerns.

He wanted to make sure citizens knew he was working toward getting speed bumps on Shaw Road and Holt Lane in reference to getting petitions signed. He said he was still waiting for a schedule to the County maintenance in reference to the cuttings in the district.

He wanted to make sure when citizens do come and give their concerns, the Board hears and also address, such as the issues with Greensboro.

He further added they need to workshop and adopt procedures, he was not there for a circus show or for people to make fun of the Board. He said they need to make sure they put a handle on things they are passionate about.

Commissioner Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, District 2

Commissioner Viegbesie said to Commissioner Green, there were two items he wanted to mention:

1) To the Attorney, they may need to have a workshop on Robert’s Rules so they know when to talk and when to be recognized.

2) He was concerned with what he just heard with the Greensboro Fire Service. That was not something they should marginalize with that service. Yes, they do give Greensboro money annually and if they are now going to say they will no longer have the fire service within the municipality, what about the citizens that are in the unincorporated area. The citizens of Greensboro are citizens of Gadsden County and they need to be protected. When he first came on the Board, he floated an idea of Gadsden County exploring the possibility of creating a bona fide Gadsden County Fire Department. He said he felt the issue was, how would they bring the volunteers into what they love to do with a passion, how they bring them into becoming full-time fire fighters. He said maybe at budget time, that money should go to the volunteers. He asked they not drop the ball.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Chair Holt said they need to start with who they have the contract with.

She added that a workshop on Policy and procedure was a great idea.

The Celebration for the County was good idea. They need to get research and give it to the Administrator.

She said she learned from some of the other counties, some of the Commissioners worked with the Administrator and Departments in helping to do research and get it to the Administrator. She said she was looking at having meetings with every city to work together on goals and objectives.

She said they have farmers in the County and they were looking at how they could get money to help with the farms and there was money out there for them. They will have to have a Farmers’ Certification number that can be obtained from USDA, the office is located in Calhoun County and in one pot of money there is \$5 Billion. She said they need help with the paperwork.

Commissioner Viegbesie said the meeting with the municipalities should be with the governmental body of the municipalities.

Receipt and File

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
April 20, 2021 – Regular Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:30 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

BRENDA A. HOLT, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk