

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON MAY 18, 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
 Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
 Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Holt welcomed everyone, called the meeting to Order at 6:00 p.m., 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 asked to add items 16a-CARES Act Local Government Funding Program, 16b-Approval of Resolution 2021-026 Grant Budget Amendments for FY 2021, Item 16c-Ambulance Total Loss Claim, and Item 16d-CARES Act Residual Funds.

Commissioner Hinson asked to add item 16e Summer Youth Program.

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

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

1. Proclamation Honoring Public Works Week

Mr. Dixon introduced the item and Chair Holt called the Public Works employees to the front where she read aloud the Proclamation and then presented it to the employees.

2. Proclamation Honoring EMS Week

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and called the EMS workers to the front where Vice Chair Viegbesie read aloud the Proclamation and it was presented to Director Keith Maddox.

Commissioner Hinson asked to go over the amendments once again.

CONSENT

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

3. Ratification Memo

4. Approval of Minutes

- **March 16, 2021-Regular Meeting**

- **March 29, 2021**

5. Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Liens and Rehabilitation Contract-SHIP HHR Program

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 and anticipate receiving a response within 48 hours.

Commissioner Green read aloud the COVID-19 statement.

Marion Lasley, 5 Dante Court, Quincy, FL 32351 Bainbridge Highway Land Use Map Amendment

Bishop Willie C. Green, 296 Bradwell Road, Quincy, FL Bainbridge Highway Land Use Map Amendment

Derrick Elias, 233 Cheeseborough Avenue, Quincy, FL Bainbridge Highway Land Use Map Amendment

Tonya Gaines, 111 S. Ward Street, Quincy, FL 32351 Bainbridge Highway Land Use Map Amendment

Sylvester Green, 143 Billy Hatcher Road, Quincy, FL 32352 Bainbridge Highway Land Use Map Amendment

Norman Shaw, Jr., 446 Uptain Road, Quincy, FL 32352 Bainbridge Highway Land Use Map Amendment

PUBLIC HEARINGS

6. Public Hearing-Quasi-Judicial-FL Solar D1, LLC Conceptual and Preliminary Site Plan (SP 2021-02)

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was a quasi-judicial public hearing for consideration of a conceptual/preliminary site plan to construct a solar generation facility on a 35.72± acre parcel located north of Potter Woodberry Road.

Jill Jeglie Reeves, Gadsden County Senior Planner, appeared before the Board and was sworn in by Deputy Clerk Marcella Blocker. She gave a brief synopsis of the item and stated the Planning Commission voted 10-0 to recommend approval.

Chair Holt announced this was a public hearing and everyone would be given an opportunity to talk. She then asked if anyone wished to speak for or against and there was no-one.

Commissioner NeSmith asked what district property was located and Commissioner Viegbesie stated it was in District 2.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he had no comments and felt the item had been properly vetted. He said the proposed site was adjacent to Ames Barineau and it would be economic development, give citizens access to save on their utilities and felt it would be a wonderful thing for them to approve.

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

7. Public Hearing-Legislative-Bainbridge Highway Small Scale Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map Amendment (SSPA 2020-01)

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was a legislative public hearing for board approval for consideration of Ordinance 2021-003 to adopt the Bainbridge Highway Small Scale Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map (FLUM) amendment to change the future land use designation from Agriculture 1 (AG-1) to Commercial (COMM).

Jill Jeglie Reeves, Gadsden County Senior Planner, appeared before the Board and gave a brief description of the item. She said the Comprehensive Plan amendment is considered a 'legislative action' as described by Subsection 1301 of the Gadsden County Land Development Code and must meet the statutory requirements set forth in Chapter 163, Florida Statutes. Unlike a quasi-judicial action, a local government had broad decision-making latitude in legislative matters. Public notice was mailed at least 30 days prior to public hearing and legal advertisement was placed in local newspapers and a sign was posted on the property. She then gave the board options.

Chair Holt announced this was a public hearing and asked to hear from the proposer of the project.

David Theriaque, Esquire, Theriaque and Spain, appeared before the Board and the team introduced themselves.

Allara Mills Gutcher, The Planning Collaborative, introduced herself and said she was the planner on the project team.

Josh Hufstetler, Executive Vice President of Teramore Development, LLC, appeared before the Board, introduced himself and said he was in charge of everything underneath the umbrella of their company in terms of managing their pipeline.

Tyler Graybill introduced himself and said he worked in a real estate capacity for Teramore Development.

Luke Strickland introduced himself and said he also worked in a real estate capacity for Teramore Development.

Joseph Alday, Alday-Howell Engineering, introduced himself and said he was a sub-consultant with Teramore Development and was the civil engineer on the project.

Mr. Theriaque said he distributed a 3-ring binder and gave a description of the exhibits.

Allara Mills Gutcher, The Planning Collaborative, appeared before the Board. She stated she prepared the application for approval of the future land use map amendment. She did go to the State to ask for their help in determining if there were any historical resources on the property. There were some in the vicinity but did not list where they were for the protection of the resources. She added there were a lot of churches and cemeteries in the area and felt that had a lot to do with what was in the area. She prepared a Consistency Analysis to the Gadsden County Comprehensive Plan and a Compatibility Review of what this meant to the surrounding development. (Page 45 of 80) There is potable water available and there will be an on-site septic system. They will meet all the concurrency requirements, which include the water, sewer and solid waste. She also said they would not exceed any level of service standards for the roadways. She said there were no wetlands on the acreage and will not impact any. They were on a major collector road and will meet that policy and was consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the type of use that would go into the commercial category was consistent with that. They will not impact the surrounding area adversely and this request will meet standards in the Regulation Code. She asked the Board to adopt Option 1.

Derrick Elias, 233 Cheeseborough Avenue, Quincy, FL appeared before the Board in opposition to this item. (His comments will follow the Minutes.)

He said the proposed location site is directly across from his mother's house. He said a CBOR meeting was held on January 3, 2020, was poorly advertised and had 12 people there and only 2 were in favor of this development. Dollar General representatives were very rude during the meeting and not very forthcoming. The Planning Commission met with 8 members and no-one spoke in favor of this project. The motion was presented to deny the proposal and the vote was unanimous. If this is approved tonight, it opens the door to destroy country living. Someone was misguided when they said there was no noise, smoke, glare, or fumes that would be created. There is no buffer between the site development and his Mother's property. The Level of Service report was done in 2018 and should be updated. Dollar General sells wine and beer and will be in front of the St. Johns AME Church. The driveway will line up directly across from St. Johns AME Church. They were not opposing the store, just the location of the store. He stated he has about 85 petitions in opposition of this project who live in the St. Johns community. He also asked, with this being a public hearing, for full disclosure and transparency from the Board and asked if any of the board members have been involved in any ex parte communication with the developer, any representatives representing the interest of Dollar General or Teramore Development, LLC to please identify for the record.

Tonya Gaines, 111 S. Ward Street, Quincy, FL appeared before Board. Her Mom is Ruby Mitchell. She asked the Board go along with the Planning Board's recommendation and deny this site. She added she was not opposed to economic development, just for it to not be located there.

Pamela Washington (no Speaker Appearance form) appeared before the Board. She stated Ms. Mitchell was her mother. She listened to the arguments and she was not opposed to the store, felt it would be good for the community but she was opposed to the location of the store. She said she has severe respiratory issues and smoke from cigarettes, cigars, smoke from cars burning oil causes her respiratory problems. If she can't sit outside with her Mother because of what is proposed to be across the street in front of her was an issue. Her Mom also has issues.

David Theriaque re-appeared before the Board and said Mr. Elias had no problem with the store when they offered to purchase his mother's property for \$350,000 and it would have been compatible. He said the only reason Mr. Elias was opposing this was when he demanded \$350,000 he did not get it and he stated he would do his best to kill them.

Josh Hufstetler re-appeared before the Board. He said he hated it has come to this, they had an agreement to purchase the property for \$250,000 and the additional \$100,000 came as a result of Dollar General's necessity that when they contract a piece of property and subdivide out of that property, they have to restrict it to competition coming in to ensure their landowners will not come in behind them and bring in a competitor. Unfortunately, they were not able to come to terms. He said their goal was to make as many people happy as they could. He said they also have the same restrictions with Coastal with their hundreds of acres. He said they were willing to adapt into the area and make the building as much residential, rural character into the storefront as they could.

Mr. Theriaque appeared again. He said they believe they bring a few things to the community, jobs, economic development, and convenience to the neighbors that want to shop at a neighborhood commercial store. He regretted they were not able to come to terms with Mr. Elias and have his support. He asked for the Board's approval of the Comprehensive Plan amendment. He said they will address site design, if granted, when they come back with the site plan.

Mr. Elias reappeared before the Board to present a rebut to the rebuttal. He said after Teramore was voted down 8-0, Mr. Hufstetler called him and made an offer on the property and a contract was signed, only it was \$260,000, not the \$350,000 they said. After signatures, they wanted to amend the contract and add a Restrictive Covenant Agreement and that was not a part of the original contract. He told Mr. Hufstetler if they wanted to change the terms of the conditions, they had to do something for them. He wanted his Mother to sign into perpetuity what she could and could not do with the remaining portion of her property. He said they would not stipulate to that, but if anyone ever wanted to buy the property, they would give them the right to first refusal.

Chair Holt said they would now look at the others that have signed up to speak.

Norman Shaw, Jr., 446 Uptain Road, Quincy, FL 32352 appeared before Board and said he was in favor of the store, they do need one in the country, maybe not in that location.

Sylvester Green, 143 Billy Hatcher Road, Quincy, FL 32352, appeared before the Board. He said he was a resident of the community of Robertsville and there is a great need for this store.

There were already two stores in the area taking advantage of people. He asked the Board to consider all the residents in the area.

Chair Holt read aloud an email that was sent in by Barbara Nolen. She said she was a resident of the St. Johns community and felt it would benefit the residents not only in their community but the neighboring community of Robertsville as well. She then mentioned Marion Lasley's email that asked if this was properly advertised. Ms. Jeglie said both meetings were properly noticed, put in newspapers and a sign placed on the property.

Chair Holt said people were now allowed in the meeting chambers and people did not have to send in emails, they could appear in person or appear by Zoom.

Bishop Willie C. Green, 296 Bradwell Road, Quincy, FL appeared before Board. He said they have to come down to basic facts, their words must match their actions and their actions must match their words. He said he has challenged the Board to bring industry into the County and for them to do what they were elected to do, to represent the citizens best interests. He said to the Commissioners, "let your words and your actions match". Even if this was in front of someone's property or across from someone's property, does it meet the standards?

Commissioner Green said it has been proven that they will not be able to 100% satisfy everyone. He asked when the meeting was held in the past? Ms. Jeglie said the Planning Commission met June 4, 2020.

Mr. Theriaque re-appeared at the podium and said they were looking at 8-10 full and part-time jobs.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he was going to ask and hearing the presentation tonight, the question was not whether the community needs Dollar General, the argument is the location. He said the area does deserve the convenience to improve their quality of life. He asked if both parties have come to an impasse in working something out in order to provide this very needed service? He added that he hoped it had not come to a "my way or no way". If they could, he suggested they do that. If not, he suggested...Chair Holt interrupted and said to do one at a time.

Mr. Hufstetler re-appeared at the podium and said they were at an impasse. He added to meet the contract, there would need to be an additional \$100,000 to come to an agreement. He said it was beyond his control now.

Mr. Elias re-appeared before the board. He said he disagreed with Mr. Hufstetler and stressed they do not oppose the store, they do oppose the location. They approached his Mother about buying her property that was not for sale. After they signed the contract, absent the RCA, they re-appeared with restrictive covenants and wanted her to sign. It changed the terms and conditions of the contract. He told them they could still work it out **IF** they wanted her to sign the RCA, yes, the first option was money. He then went back to them and said they would give them the right of first refusal, and it was a win-win situation. They could work this out, they just do not want it directly in front of her house.

Mr. Hufstetler re-appeared and said there was a third contract that was very specific and pertinent to the situation. It was the contract and lease with Dollar General. He said he was holding a 15-year guaranteed lease with four 5-year options. He said the impasse was a result of their failure to meet their obligations to their tenant within the contract to provide the restrictions. He said even if he wanted to do this deal on the Elias property, he was at an absolute impasse because he had no lease with Dollar General. He had an opportunity to get that and did not have that today.

Commissioner NeSmith had questions for Mr. Theriaque. He asked if there was a possibility they could have some type of buffer in front of the store that would not impede the landowner?

Ms. Jeglie said there was a requirement for a buffer in the area along the front.

Commissioner NeSmith asked Mr. Theriaque if there was a possibility a store could be placed there that could be more compatible with the character of the community.

Mr. Hufstetler re-appeared before the Board. If they want to incorporate additional materials, things within reason, they will work with staff to make them happy. Every Dollar General store from this point forward will have produce. He said it was beyond his control but would push Dollar General to do that.

Commissioner Green wanted to make sure he expressed that he understood the concerns of the entire Elias family. He said he knew money had already been invested and it seemed to be too late to talk about moving. He did not want the company to go somewhere else and did not want to be insensitive to the Elias family, but was it an option for them to look at relocating.

Mr. Hufstetler re-appeared and said he would love to do that in good faith to the Elias family and they took it as far as they could, given the fact they needed the restrictions on the property and could not get that deal done. He added he made it very clear to Dollar General the need to put another \$100,000 into the project or doing without the restrictions, in which all indications were they were unwilling to restrict their competitor.

Commissioner Hinson said he served on the Planning Board for many years. What shocked him was, there were eight people on the Planning Commission that voted against this item. He said at first, he thought there was no way he could oppose this, but the comments made him think.

Chair Holt said this was in her District, people were looking for economic development and jobs. She added she even have signatures from people in the church that was interested in it being there and did not want to take the chance of losing the business and economic development. On the issue of a septic tank, you must have enough sewer to pull lines on it, you cannot run a dry line on a septic tank. She pointed out that FAMU (Experiment site) and St. John Elementary School were on septic tanks.

Commissioner Hinson wanted to make a correction and wanted everyone to know he was not against it. He was saying to wait until they had everything they had to get first and then move on. Case in point, Four Star Freightliner in Midway, they built a sewer system for them and they were the only ones that got it.

Chair Holt said that would be at the planning stage and this would come back before them and they would get to see it again.

Diane Quigley re-appeared before the Board and stated that was not so, it was a Type I. However, if they were concerned about significant impacts to the community, the traffic, lighting, etc., they could direct Planning to make it a Type II where it would come back to them.

Chair Holt passed the gavel to Vice Chair Viegbesie so she could make a motion.

Vice Chair Viegbesie said he saw the Parliamentarian, Mr. Knowles, shake his head. Chair Holt asked if she had to pass the gavel and he stated no. The gavel was passed back to her.

CHAIR HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH STATED WITH THE UPMOST RESPECT TO MR. ELIAS, HE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.

Chair Holt said Mr. Elias made one request and they did not honor that request; he asked if they had met with anyone with Dollar General and she had met with a gentleman there and they went over some things and she met with some of the people in the audience.

Mr. Knowles pointed out this was a legislative hearing and ex-parte communication was ok and the quasi-judicial hearings was where there was a problem.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION FOR A 10-MINUTE RECESS AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. BOARD VOTED 4-1 TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER HINSON OBJECTED TO THE RECESS. BOARD RECESSED AT 8:11 P.M.

GENERAL BUSINESS

CHAIR HOLT RE-CONVENED THE MEETING AT 8:24 P.M.

Chair Holt said she forgot a Citizen Request to be Heard and it was not an Agenda item. There was no last name but was from Andre and asked if there would be an increase in pay for employees.

8. COVID-19 Resolution Update

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said Mr. Knowles would discuss it.

Mr. Knowles said in talking with the Administrator and Board, there was a request to update the Resolution. The Governor has forbidden using their emergency Ordinance enactment procedures to create mask orders and regulate things involving COVID-19. He said before them was a proposed Ordinance that regulated certain communicable and airborne diseases. He added there was nothing within the Executive Order to prohibit them from using the normal Ordinance enactment procedure. He asked the Board to assist him in how they would like to continue to handle the ongoing epidemic and airborne communicable disease they had seeing as the Governor has pre-empted them and in light of Senate Bill 2006, which crippled them a little with regard to the Governor and Legislature being able to pre-empt local Orders. He said they could do a Resolution that strongly encouraged people to wear a mask or do an Ordinance that required it but they would not be able to use the regular procedures through FS 125, 252 or 166.

Chair Holt said she would like to see something that read ‘strongly encourage’ but was not sure how they would do it.

Commissioner Hinson asked if they could have a workshop to think about this. He said he had a former teacher pass away from this. He also felt they needed to have someone come talk to them every meeting.

Commissioner Green concurred with Commissioner Hinson.

Mr. Dixon said he met with the Health Department Director on a weekly basis. Almost everyone 55+ have been vaccinated. They were trying to encourage younger citizens to get vaccinated.

Commissioner Hinson said in Leon County, the Superintendent was bold enough to have parents bring kids to school so they could be vaccinated. Maybe they could bring the Health Department to the School system and could help everything out.

Mr. Dixon said young people went from being healthy to dead in a couple of weeks.

Chair Holt said she was also thinking 99 deaths since March 1st was a lot for a small county.

Commissioner Hinson said it was interesting catch. He thought they could have a partnership with the School Board, do something huge at the school and the County could fund it, invest in it.

Mr. Dixon said one idea was a car show, if you got vaccinated, your name would go into a raffle pot. If you get vaccinated, have a draw to get them motivated.

Commissioner Hinson suggested if parents would, do a raffle of a \$10,000 prize. But the parent and child have to show up.

Chair Holt said to get back to draft, did they want to look at this or also they did have a workshop before their regular meeting on June 1st.

9. Approval and Signature(s) for Satisfaction of Special Assessment Lien

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was for approval to satisfy the Special Assessment Lien between Gadsden County SHIP Housing Homebuyer Program and the homeowner.

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

10. 2021 Summer Youth Initiative Program

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval to put \$60,000 into the Summer Youth Initiative program. He said they already had \$90,000 and arrived at a number. He said they would give at least \$120,000 in salaries to the young people and the additional \$30,000 was not only for staff, but they had not thought of transportation issues.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if they had a description of the item on the Agenda. Mr. Dixon said the Agenda item was not present. Commissioner Viegbesie said he thought the approval was for \$50,000.

Commissioner Hinson said he was for it, anything for the kids, but would like to have an itemized description. He wanted to make sure citizens had a chance to look at this too before they voted on it and he did not have a chance to do any research. He said along with this, who were the other partners?

Mr. Dixon said they have not had the Havana meeting yet, it will be 25th. City of Quincy has sent their check, Chattahoochee was sending their check. He said \$125,000 of \$150,000 would go directly to students.

Commissioner Hinson said he was looking at the Gadsden County Times and they said two of the partners were Quincy and Havana. He asked who made that statement.

Mr. Dixon said they had met with every city except Havana and did not know who made that statement.

Commissioner Hinson said they were having a breakdown. Why were they giving CareerSource \$150,000 and they were finding kids and they do it free?

Mr. Dixon said all the stakeholders met on a Zoom conference this morning. CareerSource is a stakeholder, while they have lots of funds, their funds were severely limited in who they could serve. He said this would allow them to bring more people into the program or pay the young people more.

Commissioner Viegbesie said his understanding was the partners were going to be the one employing and paying the youth that would participate in the program.

Mr. Dixon said TCC was paying for the site and that was the workplace certification that everyone would meet, they will get training in different fields.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he understood the intention of it. What would the County be spending the \$150,000 on specifically?

Georgette Daniels, Assistant County Administrator, appeared before the Board. She said TCC would provide staff that would do training. To encourage the incentive to the employer, the County would pay the stipend. They may also have to provide transportation for youth in the outlying areas that did not have transportation and possibly food. There was \$97,000 already budgeted in this year's budget.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if there was any idea of the targeted number of openings?

Chair Holt asked the timeline. Mr. Dixon said they will bring this back with more information. Right now, they were working in the background.

Chair Holt said he could get information to them and will then be ready for the next agenda.

Commissioner Hinson said the Board voted for \$97,000 to go to kids ages 14-18. Now they were going to take that money and give to another population of people.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if the \$97,000 was different from what they set aside for the Boys and Girls Club and was told yes.

Chair Holt said if there were three votes, they could move other monies, it was up to the Board. Work places did not want to train people and then they leave. They were looking to train for their businesses and they need the industrial certification. She was told some places could not hire anyone under 18 years of age. She said they were not overlooking one group, they were helping families and it would not just be a summer job. The businesses dictate what they want.

Mr. Dixon said the money was captured in CARES Residual.

Commissioner Green said he was hoping, because he knew Commissioner Hinson would bring it back up, they would give it some attention and merge the two. He said he was 14 when he was given the opportunity to work and was hoping they could find a way to merge the two.

Commissioner Hinson stepped out at 9:17 p.m.

Mr. Dixon said they were not attempting to exclude the younger group, they were attempting to meet the market needs. They hoped to bring this back in the new budget with a bigger, annual year-round program that was inclusive of those numbers. They want kids at every stage to be trained so when they roll out of school, they roll into a job.

Commissioner Green said at this point, it was having the time to listen to employers or employees to accommodate the ages of 14-15.

Mr. Dixon said he has spoken with Staff in and out and there was not a staff member he had that was happy with those programs because there were kids standing around.

Commissioner Hinson returned at 9:21 p.m.

Commissioner Viegbesie said since they did not have an agenda item, suggested they table this item.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS ITEM AND ITEM 11 AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER NESMITH HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner NeSmith asked the timeframe and Mr. Dixon said they would still be working on the issue.

Commissioner Hinson said BOCC carved out almost \$100,000 for youth ages 14-19.

CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE TABLING THE ITEMS.

11. American Rescue Plan

Item Tabled

12. Memorandum of Understanding with the Apalachee Regional Resilience Collaborative

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was for approval of the adoption of the Apalachee Resilience Collaborative. Counties who adopt the ARPC MOU will help our region leverage resources and share goals towards becoming more resilient. This non-binding MOU was created to show regional support and act as a forum for resiliency efforts in the region.

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

13. Approval of Courthouse Sidewalk Leveling

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was for approval of an agreement with Ram Jack Solid Foundation to level three sections of the sidewalk located on the west-side of the Courthouse.

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

14. Approval of Motorola Solutions Refinancing

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. He stated they have taken the two previous loans, added the \$435,448.43 to it to make the loans come to a total of \$1,756,015.13. It would create one payment and dropped the interest rate from 4.29% and 3.10% to 2.89% to make an annual payment of \$274,026.13. He added they were bringing this to a head and this issue was three years old. The radios have been sitting in someone's garage because they have been unable to wrap this up previously.

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

Commissioner Viegbesie said with refinancing, did that make the debt service lower with a lower interest rate?

Georgette Daniels appeared before the Board. They had two loans and was paying an annual payment of \$200,000; they will add to the loans they already had and will save money in the interest rate over the life of the loan.

Commissioner NeSmith asked the term of the loan. Ms. Daniels said they had seven years remaining on the current loan and there was no penalty to pay off early.

Mr. Dixon said it was a fantastic system, it was just a fact that they let technology sit on the shelf for three years.

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

15. Cochran Road Resurfacing

Mr. Dixon said this item was for the Cochran and Fairbanks Ferry Road (Agenda Request only shows for Cochran Road but the bid packet was for both roads).

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

16. Peck Betts Roadway Repairs-Professional Services

Mr. Dixon said they have gotten approval from FEMA to get that road in shape. This will be a reimbursement process and the task order was for \$68,025.00.

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

16a. CARES Act Funding Program

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated this was the CARES Act Funding Program closeout, requires a signature and dictates the amount of money in the draw-down made and officially closes the program with the Federal government.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner Hinson said he just received this today. He said the reason he could not approve this was because of what happened in the past. He said they have Request ID numbers and do not know what the numbers were for. He asked for an itemized copy of the list to see what the Board was spending before it was approved. Also, they received a letter from the Sheriff where they want an audit on everything.

Commissioner Green asked the timeframe it needed to be approved by.

Mr. Dixon said this was for money already spent, it was the drawdown of all money that came in from the Federal government.

Fredericka Hamilton, The Infinity Group, appeared before the Board. She explained this form was just a showcase of what had been provided throughout the program. Every county has to sign off on a form like this.

Commissioner Hinson said they had a conversation years ago. Every time they get information, he wanted to know what they were approving before they approved it.

Commissioner Viegbesie said his understanding was these requests and amounts were reflective of information they submitted to draw the money down.

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

Commissioner Hinson asked if this was just for the drawdown.

Mr. Dixon said this was about all the money sent to Gadsden County.

Ms. Daniels appeared before the Board and said this was just close-out documents. The County was the applicant, the State was the recipient and the State sends the money to the Counties.

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

16b. Approval of Resolution 2021-Grant Budget Amendments for FY 2021

Mr. Dixon said this was budget amendments that should have been coming to them all along. He said they have encapsulated them, created accounts.

Ms. Daniels said this was for grants they get every year and some money was spent in one fiscal year. Finance keeps track of how much the grant was, how much was spent during one fiscal year and then they are rolled-over for the next fiscal year because sometimes they are multiyear grants. She explained this was the roll-over to this fiscal year so they can continue to spend.

Commissioner Viegbesie said for the interest of those viewing, this was grant revenues and was also reported in expenditures and will zero out.

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

16c Ambulance Total Loss Claim

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was presented for the Board to accept or reject the proposed payment by the County's insurer for the total loss of an EMS ambulance.

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

16d. Cares Act Residual

Mr. Dixon said this was for information. They will bring this back at the next meeting but this was how they looked at how to get some of their projects done from the CARES Residual.

Commissioner Viegbesie commended the Administrator for this information.

16e. Summer Youth

Commissioner Hinson presented this item and said first, hopefully they could have a workshop on the \$1.3 Million because other commissioners might have suggestions on how to use the money. He passed out his agenda item and expounded on it. For each youth, the Board will pay up to 20 hours per week for up to six weeks at rate of \$8.56/hr.; it added up to approximately \$1027.00/youth. Additionally, the request includes \$18,000 for hiring of monitors to assist with management of youth throughout County and to ensure compliance with program rules. They could take \$75,000 for 14-16-year olds and the other \$75,000 for ages 17-19. They will need someone to manage them. Hopefully they can put this on the agenda for the next meeting.

Commissioner NeSmith said in reference to this presentation, he thought Commissioner Viegbesie recommended he speak with the Administrator to see if it was a possibility of merging the two. Commissioner Hinson quickly said to him this was a separate program.

Commissioner Green asked if he had done due diligence in who was willing to take a chance in hiring. Commissioner Hinson said he had talked with various cities and they were willing to partner and was excited.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if there was a reason they have to go through the County as opposed to working directly with the cities.

Commissioner Hinson said in the past, the County paid for them to go to certain locations.

Chair Holt said a couple of things, the conduct in a workplace, there has to be training; on how to dress, how to come to work, how to be polite, etc. Who would select the students? Who at the County had to monitor the program? She said they would have to look at it when it comes back.

Commissioner Hinson said this was for discussion already. Chair Holt said it was up to the Board.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO BRING THIS ITEM BACK IN TWO WEEKS FOR A VOTE FOR KIDS FROM THE AGE OF 14-18 YEARS OF AGE AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND FOR THE SAKE OF PUTTING THIS ITEM ON THE AGENDA THE PROPER WAY. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

CLERK OF COURT

17. Updates

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

18. Updates

Mr. Dixon said he was seeking opinions, was hoping they could cancel meetings in July because of meetings and travel.

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

Mr. Dixon said the FAC conference will be June 29-July 2 and anyone wishing to attend to please get with Laurel Bradley.

He said NACO dates had changed and will be July 9 – July 12.

The Public Works appreciation luncheon will be May 20th at Noon at Pat Thomas Park.

They were attempting to schedule the “golden triangle” trip in July.

Chair Holt said there were several Constitutionals interested in going.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if he would send his regrets for the Public Works luncheon.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

19 Updates

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

20. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson thanked them for putting his item on the Agenda for the next meeting.

He read a letter from the Gadsden County high school to the Board.

He thanked the citizens for being strong and courageous with regards to getting the COVID-19 shot.

Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, District 3

Commissioner NeSmith thanked the Public Works Department, the past weekend they had a Family Fun day at Sawdust Park. He thanked Chair Holt, Commissioner Hinson and Mr. Dixon for participating in the Sawdust Community Outreach Coalition and thanked Public Works for organizing and cleaning the park in preparation of the event.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5

Commissioner Green asked how much money was left for striping. Mr. Dixon said Chair Holt had money. Mr. Dixon then told him they were looking, going through the line items to see if they could find more money.

Commissioner Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, District 2

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION OF APPRECIATION FOR DR. ADRIAN COOKSEY AND THE GADSDEN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR THE WONDERFUL JOB THEY HAVE DONE AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION FOR A CONTRATULATORY RESOLUTION HONORING ELDER LEE E. PLUMMER FOR HIS RETIREMENT AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON ASKED FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR HIS PARENTS 57TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH SAID SO MOVED. COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

CHAIR HOLT ASKED FOR A RESOLUTION FOR COMMISSIONER GREEN’S GRANDFATHER, SYLVESTER KEYS AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

She thanked Commissioner Green and Commissioner NeSmith about questioning the legal matter that was mentioned in a previous meeting and passed out a document (Copy was not given to the Deputy Clerk). She said she spoke with a FAC attorney about if it should have been discussed and was told no. The less said, the better they were.

She said they need to look at Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola. At one time they were interested in building a hospital here. They told her they do not take over hospitals, they build their own.

Mr. Dixon said that brought something else to his mind. He tried to watch some of the discussions the Board had with its provider and had since looked at the contract and think they really need to seek expert advice about what the contract says and allows them to do and not do in terms of future planning. The Board signed the contract and if the Board knew what exactly it allowed them to do at Gadsden Memorial, asked they please share with him because he did not know. He said they have a request from the eye facility to renew their lease, but to go through the documents, requires hospital expertise. He said it was written by hospital lawyers and understood by hospital lawyers and was very focused. He added he was unsure how they can legally approach, even the comment Chair Holt just made about even talking to another hospital and suggested they not talk with other hospitals until they do know.

Chair Holt said she knew she was being cautioned, but they have both been there a while. There are attorneys that specialize in that and they need to hire one. She said they have been going the cheap way out. They are going to have to hire an attorney that specializes in that for that particular item. She wants them to get out and look.

Mr. Dixon said if nothing but just for clarity and understanding of what it was they have actually signed, given away, given first right of refusal to, what their options were in terms of the ability to solicit, etc.

Mr. Knowles said if they have a contract, they could look at it.

Chair Holt said no.

Mr. Dixon said they “backed into” the contract and that was the problem. If they keep backing into contracts that the vendor supplies to them and not what the Board wishes are, they end up defending or attempting to defend. He said he was not sure about what they agreed to.

Commissioner NeSmith asked when they signed the last contract and Mr. Dixon said within the last year.

Chair Holt said they had attorneys and they always got someone that specialized in that because it was such a technical field.

Commissioner Viegbesie said to Commissioner NeSmith and Commissioner Green, the contract was negotiated by a medical attorney they hired that represented the County and there was one that represented the hospital. That attorney's expertise was with hospitals, Michael Glazer. They had legal representation.

Mr. Dixon said he had a meeting with CRMC and they talked about the County's use of the hospital.

Chair Holt said they had been through that with Mr. Glazer several times. This was not his first rodeo. She said they need to bring this item back; they need to look at some expertise so they can get a good contract and that way the County has the advantage.

CHAIR HOLT MADE A MOTION TO BRING THE CONTRACT BACK AND GET AN EXPERT THAT KNEW HOW TO DO THAT AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Receipt and File

UPCOMING MEETINGS

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:46 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk