

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JUNE 15, 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
 Nicholas Thomas, Clerk
 Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Holt welcomed everyone to the meeting, called it 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.

Commissioner Viegbesie stepped out at 6:01 p.m.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Dixon asked to add 12a-Approve Funding for the Gadsden County Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Residual Funds; 12b-Appointment to the CareerSource Capital Region Board; 12c Approval of the Addendum to the Gadsden County Broadband Agreement; 12d-Cochran Road SCRAP Construction Bid Agreement; and 12e-Board Approval of the Sub-Grant Agreement Number Z2622 for Hurricane Sally and Authorize Staff to Accept and Execute the Agreement in the Division of Emergency Management (DEM) Automated Grant System

Commissioner Viegbesie returned at 6:02 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson appeared at 6:03 p.m.

Commissioner Viegbesie expressed his same concern he has expressed in the past since being on the Commission. He said he has discouraged adding items to the Agenda at the last minute, he personally felt that did not express transparency to the citizens and they should be given an opportunity to preview them and make comments. He further stated he was aware there are some items that were absolutely necessary to be added at the last minute and the Special Projects Coordinator uploads the items onto the website, but the items should be made available in a timelier manner. There were too many items were being added at the last minute.

Commissioner Green concurred with Commissioner Viegbesie’s statement and added it did not give them the opportunity to do their due diligence and hoped they could get handle on this as soon as possible.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AS AMENDED AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

1. Proclamation Honoring Dr. Adrian Cooksey and the Gadsden County Health Department

Chair Holt asked that they all step forward with Dr. Cooksey and Vice Chair Viegbesie read aloud the Proclamation and it was then presented to her. She said a few words of thank you.

2. Audit Presentation

Ryan Tucker, Purvis Gray, appeared before the Board to present the results of their audit of the County ending September 30, 2020.

He said overall the results were positive and there was a total of 3 audit findings and all were resolved. He said the main thing was the County was issued an unmodified report and was the highest level of assurance that could be received from a CPA firm. There was a comparison of revenue and expenses County Wide. He said revenues were up \$9 Million from the prior year and most was a result of additional grant funding the County received in 2020 compared to 2019. It was mostly CARES Act Funds, the Ag Center grant for the renovation, bridges were reconstructed and several roads were paved or repaved. There was also the SHIP Housing relief program the County received funds for and expended.

He further explained the revenues and expenditures.

He explained the unassigned reserved level was just under \$3.6 Million at that time and was 17% of total expenses and General Fund net transfers out of about \$21 Million. He said it was down about 3% from the previous year mark of where they were at the end of 2019. He said that was something to keep an eye on, the GFO he recommended a minimum of two months of operating expenses to be held in reserve for disasters and emergencies and the County was just above the two-month requirement in terms of unassigned fund balance. With the long-term debt there were some new items: 1) the purchase of 4 ambulances under Capital Outlay; 2) the Sheriff had vehicle purchases that was \$544,000 of new debt. He said there was \$1.3 Million of new debt and the County paid down almost \$2 Million of regular debt service payments. He also pointed out the Schedule of Awards of Federal Grant Expenditures. He said there were 19 different Federal grants spent awarded and spent during that time period totaling \$6.1 Million and they had to do some additional compliance work related to the CARES Act. On the State Grants, there were 30 different State grants and they had to do additional work on four of them. He said overall there were no compliance findings in the Single Audit. There were two findings on the Board side. One was a transitional item with regards to EMS billing reconciliation process. The person that was doing that retired and some of the information on how it was done did not get fully passed down and they got behind. He said they adjusted for that and it was being worked on getting squared away. The other item was related to Accounts Payable Cut-off. Sometimes invoices come in after year-end that need to be accrued back into the prior fiscal year and found one understated and had to accrue for that. The Board issued their response and their findings will go in the Report.

Under the Sheriff's tab, there was a finding related to Fixed Assets and stated it was very common. He explained Florida Statutes require that the Sheriff's Office perform a physical inventory of fixed assets annually and that physical inventory did not get performed, basically due to COVID. He said they found a couple of disposals that did not get removed from the Fixed Assets ledgers.

Overall, the County is making progress.

Commissioner Viegbesie thanked him for the presentation. He said he reviewed the response from the County Administrator regarding one of the deficiencies and asked if he had a chance to review same.

Mr. Tucker said the response would go into the report and they will look to see if it has been corrected during the next year's audit.

Chair Holt stated they needed to accept the audit and needed a motion and second.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER GREEN, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO ACCEPT THE FY 2020 AUDIT.

CONSENT

Chair Holt said they were going to need to really look over the Minutes and restate their Motion for approval of items, whatever the motion was so there would be clarity between the Board and the Clerk's Office and there was clarity on the items. She said they would make sure they were voting the way the motion stated. She added that way they would make sure that what they voted for also matched the Minutes. She said for them to read over the Minutes and if there were any corrections that needed to be made, make note at that time.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH ANY NECESSARY CHANGES THAT WERE NEEDED ON THE MINUTES AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.

3. Ratification Memo
4. Approval of Minutes
 - May 4, 2021 Workshop
 - April 20, 2021 Regular Meeting
5. Approval of Signatures for Satisfaction of Special Assessment Lien

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.

Mr. Knowles read the statement aloud.

Alan Dust, 477 Scotland Road, Havana, FL 32333 appeared before the Board. He stated he had concerns with County employees not doing their jobs. He and his wife moved to Gadsden County and built their "dreamhouse" to live out their golden years and enjoy life. Due to a couple of neighbors and the County not doing anything when they are in violation of different ordinances. He said one neighbor on one side was in violation of the County's Development

Standards, Chapter 5, Subsection 5101. He said dwelling units specifically excluded recreational vehicles and they live in them from time to time. He said they were also in violation of Subsection 5204, Standards for Home Occupation and he explained that. Suzanne Lex did not do her job and there has not been a County Administrator with enough impendance to go forward and do their job. He said there is another neighbor that was in violation of noise ordinances. He said he talked with the Administrator 2 months ago, contacted him again and waited; was told they had other things to do and he was on the list; another month has passed and still nothing has happened.

Mr. Dixon said he has met with Mr. Dust and informed him someone would be getting in touch with him and they will. While Mr. Dust is entitled to enjoy his property, so does the neighbor next door. To ask the County to intervene without good cause could be difficult, as he has said, when the deputies are there. These are not easy issues to resolve, staff has been there a number of times over the years. Staff has not had the opportunity to witness some of the things he has and therefore their hands were tied until they can, just as the deputy has said to him. He added they have not ignored him or turned their backs on him. (There was a list that was distributed and a copy was not given to the Deputy Clerk.)

Mr. Dust said when people don't follow up, when they don't return calls, he would not say that was cooperating and the County was not doing anything. He said Mr. Dixon needed to take a look at the violations of the County Ordinances and need to see it.

Chair Holt stated she felt the Administrator would be willing to look at those violations and work with him and they have his list of complaints.

Karen Stansberry

Chair Holt did not read her email but stated there was a link to a video that had also been sent to Governor Ron DeSantis and others.

Marion Lasley (email sent in)

PUBLIC HEARINGS

6. Public Hearing-Legislative-Consideration of Adoption of Ordinance 2021-004 to add Subsection 1306, Community Meeting, to Chapters 1, Administration and Enforcement of the Land Development Code

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was a legislative Public Hearing for consideration of a recommendation to adopt Ordinance 2021-004 adding Subsection 1306, Community Meeting to Chapter 1, Administration and Enforcement of the Land Development Code.

Diane Quigley, AICP, Growth Management Director, appeared before the Board and said this was a request to amend the Land Development Code to add in the Community Meetings language again and she further expounded on same.

Commissioner Green stepped out at 6:36 p.m.

She said they were asking to add community meeting requirements back into Subsection 1306. She said the purpose of the meetings was to provide an opportunity for the applicants of the proposed development to meet directly with the surrounding community to address questions, issues and to hear their concerns without the formality of a public hearing. A public hearing was held at the Planning Commission's May 15, 2021 meeting. Several members of the public spoke and submitted written comments in favor of adding the Community Meetings back into the Land Development Code to ensure the public was adequately notified. The Planning Commission recommended 8-4 to adopt Ordinance 2021-004 adding Subsection 1306 to the Land Development Code.

Commissioner Green returned at 6:37 p.m.

She shared a brief presentation with the Commissioners and explained the difference in Administrative, Legislative and Quasi-Judicial hearings.

She said they have the options of:

- 1) Adoption of Ordinance 2021-004 adding Subsection 1306, Community Meeting to Chapter 1, Administration and Enforcement of the Land Development Code and authorize the Chairwoman to sign.
- 2) Do not approve.
- 3) Board direction.

Chair Holt announced this was a public hearing and asked for comments. She also said Ms. Marion Lasley was in favor of the public hearing per her email.

Bishop Willie C. Green, 296 Bradwell Road, Quincy, FL appeared before Board. He said before he addressed this issue, he thanked the Board for the American Rescue Plan and things that were put in place to help the citizens and Churches. His concern was, he believed the community meetings could be good but felt they were in the wrong place. He said not many major corporations that want to bring their business to the County would be interested in doing so with this meeting in place. This was a unique County. He was convinced they all want economic growth and development and need to be consistent. He asked they remember couple of weeks ago, they had a public hearing and had citizens to come to the meeting and felt that was the proper place for them to come. He asked they not approve this.

Chair Holt asked for other comments and there were none.

Commissioner NeSmith said he was little perplexed. How did this come before them, did the Board ask for it?

Mr. Dixon said yes, the Board asked that they bring community meetings back.

Commissioner NeSmith asked Ms. Quigley the difference in this and the Citizens Bill of Rights.

Ms. Quigley said the CBOR had a super majority in it and few other requirements and this does not. Commissioner NeSmith said currently the citizens have the capability to appear before Planning and she said yes.

Commissioner Green said he was glad to hear the statement about CBOR. He said it sounded like it was trying to be slipped back in. He said they want citizens to have the opportunity to give input as to what came into the community but wanted to make sure they were not allowing something they voted against to come back.

Commissioner Hinson said for the last 7-8 years was a proponent of getting rid of the CBOR and felt it slowed down growth in the County. What he thought he said was he wanted to have community input. Something as simple as a hotel coming in, you have sexual predators floating around and you have no input of the hotel coming into the community; imagine having a plant nursery and you have chemicals floating around in the air and killing the pear trees and other things; causing cancer. He said he was on the Planning Board for years. He thought they need to have input from the community but to have 4 out of 5 votes to pass is a stretch. To have the community meetings was showing they wanted the public to be a part of what was going on.

Chair Holt said she did research and called 8 counties. Jackson County notifies within 300 feet, they do the notification, do not require community meetings. Liberty County does not require community meetings but do notify people in the area. The majority of the counties do not notify to have them come to the Planning or Board meeting. She said she was not in favor of this item and will have to vote against it.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he also was not in support of this. He remembered when he was sworn in, the first meeting was to get rid of CBOR, including this portion of it. He said “you cannot run with the rabbits and bark with the dogs”.

Commissioner Hinson said for the record, (he held up a paper) and said it just came out today, he was reading through it and recalled years ago when he looked at this, he was on the Board of Planning and people would have to come to the Board anyway. He said he felt if there was some kind of way they could notify, because they almost lost a business coming because the guy was in another county and could not keep coming back and forth. He agreed they still should send a letter to people outside to encourage them to come to the meetings. He wanted to make sure the public knew they could come to Planning and County meetings to let their opinions be known. He said he had heartburn over the 1000 feet because of chemicals.

Ms. Quigley said that would remain in how they do things.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO DENY THIS AND ADD INSTEAD OF 1000 FEET, THEY MAKE THE NOTIFICATION ½ MILE AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THERE WAS DISCUSSION REGARDING THE MOTION. COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO DENY AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Commissioner NeSmith said for a point of clarification; the current notification process had been denied and Ms. Quigley said no, to add the additional community meeting.

Mr. Dixon said Commissioner Hinson wanted to readdress the distance of the notification process. Chair Holt asked if it would have to be re-agendaed and Mr. Knowles stated yes because they voted this down.

Mr. Dixon asked for clarity on what they needed to come back on and Commissioner Hinson said the notification requirement of 2640 feet.

Chair Holt said she would like to see this stay at 1000 feet and would also like for the company pay for the notification and the County do the notification.

Ms. Quigley said they do already in their application fee.

Chair Holt asked Commissioner Hinson if he wanted the ½ mile and he felt within ½ mile would cover everyone. Chair Holt clarified they had ½ mile and he wanted to add 1000 feet, the company pay the fees and the County does the notification.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if they were asking the Administrator to add this to the next agenda. Ms. Quigley said it needs to go to Planning first.

Ms. Quigley said the County does notification already and the only change to the process they had to follow by statute is the ½ mile.

7. Public Hearing-Legislative-Consideration of Adoption of Ordinance 2021-005 to amend Subsections 5606 and 5607, Standards for Off-Street Parking and Off-Street Parking Requirements of the Land Development Code

Ms. Quigley said this item was to amend the Land Development Code and under Ordinance 2021-005, it would amend Chapter 5, Subsections 5606 and 5607, Standards for Off-Street Parking and Off-Street Parking Requirements. She added this was minor changes to the Code but could make a lot of difference to some of their residents. Typically, what has been found with churches, when they meet with them, get a plan and issue a development order and go through the review process and it goes into the construction phase, they typically have problems raising money and church development orders does not expire. Typically, with development orders, they have six months to start construction or they expire if there is no activity or start within a certain timeframe. If that happens, the development order is revoked and they have to come back and re-apply.

Chair Holt said she was going to make a comment and some people may get upset with her but, whenever they get upset with each other in church, they start another church. That then restricts the ability to develop in the County. She said they need to look at closing that opportunity and if they do not build within a certain number of years, then other people could develop. She added that a place that serves beer and wine cannot be within a certain footage of a church, but a church could build next door to them. What was good for one should be good for the other.

Commissioner Viegbesie said his comment was on procedure. It was a public hearing and felt Commissioners comments should come after the public had the chance to insert their opinion.

Ms. Quigley said because they have been left open to give churches time to raise funding over several years to develop and build their church, they did an inventory of the open development orders for churches and found they have 16-17 that currently have open development orders in various stages of completing construction. Paving was one of the issues. They took a look at some of the things they could do to help and paving was one of the issues. She said they could

be exempt from paving parking lots if they allowed them. She said they would have to pave handicapped parking spaces, per building code requirements. They would have to provide a firm, stable, level surface and that would save money for the churches and relieve burden. She asked they adopt Ordinance 2021-005 and recommended option 1.

Chair Holt asked if anyone in the audience wanted to speak for or against this matter.

Bishop Green re-appeared before the Board. He applauded Planning for bringing this forward. He asked they approve it.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he would support it and suggested for a politically correct reference to the places of worship and asked if they could change it to religious organization.

Ms. Quigley said they did catch that and thought the Planning Commission mentioned it as well. They say a “church or other similar religious institutional use”.

Commissioner Green said they get in the habit of saying “church” and may be because the majority of them were from the church but did not want to be discriminatory at all.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if the language was in there and asked for her to direct him to it.

Commissioner Hinson said it was so interesting listening to them last agenda item and heard them. He said one thing, they speak one way about growth, but their vote said something totally different and he changed his decision. He said to imagine communities with sidewalks and driveways and then someone brings a church inside that community. It was not required to bring sidewalks and driveways. Property value goes down. Imagine a church purchases a building and does so next to a restaurant. That business can’t expand their services because they have a church next to it. Restaurants can’t come to Gadsden County because of the number of churches. He added, hypothetically speaking, on Pat Thomas Parkway there are two hotels, Applebee’s could not build there because there was a church in the proximity. He said it sounded great but this would put a damper on economic development.

Commissioner Green said he was thinking this was something totally different from what he was stating in reference to the Ordinance with the alcohol and things of that nature and wanted clarity because he wanted to make sure they would have that opportunity to address some of those issues.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he was surprised to hear the alcohol relevance in this conversation.

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

Chair Holt said she would like to have the issues with the churches and the distance for development to be brought back for a future item.

Ms. Quigley asked for clarification. They have the Ordinance that states the churches, developments near bars, etc., their Land Development Code does not allow church

development orders to never expire. She asked if they would like to address each one as separate...

Chair Holt said she would like to address that and the distance and scenario of different buildings coming. Overall, bring it back and they could look at other items.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he said to the Administrator, in developing of that, they need to consider the possibility of grandfathering in those that have already been there because he would hate for a restaurant to be in place and a church come next door.

Commissioner Green said in reference to Commissioner Viegbesie's comments in grandfathering in, if a restaurant tries to come within certain feet, should the church be grandfathered in as well?

Mr. Dixon said to add to the equation, he thought the City of Quincy was now evaluating getting rid of that because even across the street, those places can't open because of the religious institution on the corner.

Chair Holt stated they were there first. Mr. Dixon said it did not matter because the law said and thought they were looking at an opportunity to clean the slate.

GENERAL BUSINESS

8. Consideration of a Work Order for a Consultant to Assist in Conducting Community Visioning Workshops for the Update of the Comprehensive Plan

Ms. Quigley introduced the above item and stated it was for consideration of a work order for consulting in assisting in conducting Community Vision workshops for the updated Comprehensive Plan. She said it was to explore approval of visioning workshops in the Fall of 2021.

They were proposing to host four workshops total and will be inviting County Commissioners, City Council members and local government administrators to the workshops and was requesting be able to hire a consultant. They want to use Dewberry that has a contract already in place. They were requesting \$49,775 and funding is in the current budget. She asked they approve the work order.

Mr. Dixon said he has had consultations with Ms. Quigley about drilling down into communities and had a good example last night with the Rescue Plan.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he thought this was something that was long overdue. He commended Mr. Dixon for his last statement and said was very important they take it down to the basic language.

Chair Holt said the Comp Plan is so difficult to do it in chunks.

Commissioner NeSmith said they need to be up to date on their Land Use Code, Comprehensive Plan and Ordinances they had out there. He channeled Commissioner Hinson at this moment. He asked Mr. Knowles where they stood with the procurement policy. Mr. Knowles said it

amounted to a Change Order if they have an existing contract and the changes are less than \$10,000, it could be put on Consent and go through the Consent Agenda. Since they were piggy-backing on the existing contract, they were using the contract with Dewberry and effectively amounted to a change order. He said it was called a Task Order but was really a change order adding additional funds to it. Commissioner Nesmith asked the Administrator's recommendation. Mr. Dixon said he and Ms. Quigley had this conversation and this is a means to the end. This fits with the contract they have with Dewberry and makes it easier.

Commissioner NeSmith asked the last time the Comp Plan was updated-2018.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

9. SHIP/HHRP Housing Rehab-Bid 21-10 Recommendations and Awards

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to award Bid 21-10 for the SHIP/HHRP Housing Rehabilitation Project to the selected contractors.

Sonya Burns, Housing Program Coordinator, appeared before the Board and gave her report. Gadsden County BOCC was awarded \$3,055,000 from the Florida Housing Finance Corporation from the Hurricane Housing Recovery Program. In the recent months, an additional \$970,000 was approved and awarded to Gadsden County. She said there were still citizens homeless as a result of the hurricane and in need to major housing repairs. She said this was the third cycle they will be rehabilitating or demo/replacing 21 dwellings and was the first time they have ever bid out such a large number of homes at one time. When this is completed, it will be a total of 41 homes. Staff solicited sealed bids on May 20th; with a mandatory Pre-Bid Conference and walk-through on May 26th; bids were received until June 8th and immediately reviewed from the contractors. A careful review of the applications and bids were done by staff and was determined that Kamryn Construction, LLC, Chief Cornerstone Construction, Blue Chip Construction Co., Jackie Hill, H & O Home Improvements, R. Lockwood Construction Co., and Florida Homes, Inc. met the requirements. The original amount received from Florida Housing Finance was \$3,055,000, one homeowner contribution of \$24,116.71 and out of everyone's services thus far, this was the only homeowner that submitted the money he received from FEMA because his home was completely destroyed and he wanted to participate in the construction of his new home. With that contribution, it gave them a total budget of \$3,079,116.71; total amount spent was \$1,301,129.59. There are two homes currently under construction totaling \$181,320.00 and both should be completed by end of the month. The remaining balance as of June 14, 2021 is \$1,5096,666.12. She said these numbers were discussed on June 2nd and 3rd with the Finance Director and Assistant Finance Director. No contractor will be issued more than two local government-funded contracts simultaneously unless the ability to perform was proven and three contracts was the maximum for any contractor. Contractors that have not previously completed any work for SHIP, CDBG or HHRP programs will be limited to three contracts until the ability to perform is proven. Contractors with unfavorable performance or work history the awards will be at the discretion of local government. The local government has the right to accept or reject any bid. She said the staff recommended bid awards were as follows:

Jackie Hill, H & O Home Improvements (a new contractor to Gadsden County) was awarded two jobs totaling \$176,350.00; Florida Homes was awarded four jobs totaling \$417,945.00, Blue Chip bid award was \$250,111.36; Lockwood Construction was awarded \$218,060., Kamryn

Construction was awarded \$335,500.00 and Chief Cornerstone Construction was awarded \$182,500.00. She said the total projected construction costs was \$1,580,466.36. That amount does not include any possible change order. She said they do have approximately 10 applicants that have been approved to receive SHIP assistance but due to heir property issues, probate, administrative hearings, etc. have been put on hold but they were working with them and the technical advisor from Florida Finance and have come up with a Lien Leasing Agreement where all the heirs to the property gives one family member permission to receive services for a replacement home. Staff recommended they approve option 1, which would approve staff recommendations and award bid 21-10 selections for the SHIP/HHRP Housing Rehabilitation Project to the selected contractors and authorize the Chair to execute all related documents.

Commissioner Hinson said he just saw the list of names today and was shocked to see a relative's name on the list and will recuse himself from voting. Mr. Dixon said it was his job to announce that and Chair Holt was in the same situation.

Commissioner Viegbesie said that was his question concerning contractors. He knew they had some real issues with some contractors. He asked how much of the contractors have been vetted. Ms. Burns said the list of contractors that staff recommended were some of the best. Commissioner Viegbesie wanted to make sure they are vetted and provide the services and not endanger the citizens by short-changing and cutting corners with regard to the repairs.

Commissioner Green asked, if possible, for her to present a workshop in the future so citizens can learn what SHIP is and has to offer.

Bill and Debbie Herring, Florida Homes, Inc., 13919 NW 145 Ave., Alachua, FL appeared before the Board. She said they were very passionate about affordable housing. They were the competitive low bidder on eight demo/replacement homes. She added it was stated that no contractor will be allowed more than five jobs unless approved by the Board and one reason was because other bids were excessive. She shared some statistics with some of the bid results they had. The current bid recommendations are spending \$152,688.00 additional dollars by not awarding the jobs to the lowest bidders. She said not just them, there were other low bidders. That amount of money could be used on another home or on an average 6± additional families in the rehab. All contractors that bid, were the low bidder on a job was not necessarily awarded the job they were the low bidder on. If all bids were awarded to the lowest bidder, all contractors who bid would have received some work, saving the County \$152,688.00. Eleven of the jobs were awarded to low bidders and 9 of the jobs were not. She pointed out that in one case, not only was the low bidder not awarded, but the highest bidder was awarded for an additional amount of \$34,022.00 for the one job. She pointed out other differences in the bids. She said they have demonstrated as a company that they were able to complete all jobs in a timely manner and were willing and capable to complete all 8 jobs they were low bidder on. They respectfully requested that at a minimum, they be awarded 5 demo/replacement homes they were the low bidder on. Mr. Herring said they would at least like the opportunity to get at least the 5 that were allowed.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked the Administrator if he could ask a question of Ms. Burns. He asked if she had spoken with the contractor and gotten the information they have with regard to the numbers they mentioned and an explanation as to why those concerns were not addressed in the awarding of the bids. He said where they were at seemed very fiscal

responsible and would rather stretch the money to fix more houses and would be beneficial to the citizens.

Ms. Burns said to address his question, Ms. Herring called her yesterday and believed she spoke with Ms. Quigley and the County Administrator as well. She also spoke with several contractors that was on the application and bid award and one question she was asked was why was Blue Chip Construction awarded. She said during the mandatory pre-bid conference they had, it was stated that no bid was concrete until it came before the Board and it was Board's discretion to approve, reject or deny the bids. She further added it would be a disservice to the residents if the bids were not approved tonight as there were still people living with blue tarps on their houses and it was raining in their houses.

Mr. Dixon asked her to tell how she arrived at her conclusions and also wanted to make clear not only was price a concern, part of their biggest concern was attracting contractors. They have had a tough time finding contractors and was why they have been sitting on this money for years. They tried something new and also did not want contractors having 6-8 houses because that would mean months before they could get to a house. Even if you took the lowest bid and it took them 16 months to get the house, that to the County, was self-defeating. People have been waiting for years and they need to move. He asked Ms. Burns to tell how they arrived at her conclusion.

Ms. Burns said it was just as he stated, also the cost of supplies. She said contractors were calling her every day about the cost of supplies going up even though they recently went down. Who was to say they won't go back up by the time they start the jobs. She said bids were done based on 15% below and 15% above. She said all numbers were reviewed by rehab services and the Building Department official to make sure the numbers were accurate, as were the bid calculations.

Commissioner Viegbesie said they want to attract contractors; if he heard correctly, if they were comparing apples to apples and one apple cost \$50 and one costs \$20 and they buy the one at \$50, they were not being fiscally responsible. Also, they want to cover as many houses as could that had tarps, why not stretch the money so they get more houses rehabilitated as opposed to doing some at a higher cost.

Mr. Dixon said he met them at the opening and they stressed those factors and hated that they perhaps took a bid strategy that in the end took in only one factor when they were clear they were factoring in more than just a low bid. It was important that not only the jobs get done, but get done quickly. He said also the market was up 30% and contractors were asking what if they get 2 months down the road with a job and it requires more money. There was a lot at play.

Commissioner Hinson said had opportunity to review and asked if this was an RFP or a bid. Ms. Burns said it was a bid and the way they have always done for housing. Commissioner Hinson said it should be an RFP.

Chair Holt interjected and said since the had a conflict, they could not participate in the comments. Commissioner Hinson stated he thought they could comment but not vote.

Mr. Knowles said in the Conflict of Interest section of the Code of Ordinances, stated:

“Sec. 2-43. Quorum.

(c) Conflict of Interest. Any member of the commission who announces a conflict of interest on a particular matter pursuant to F.S. § 112.3146 or F.S. §286.012, and decides to refrain from voting or otherwise participating in the proceedings related to that matter, shall be deemed present for the purpose of constituting a quorum.”

He said they were treading a thin line and might be better for the two to refrain because they had family members in it and did not want to hinder...

Commissioner Hinson said in all fairness, this was something totally different.

Commissioner NeSmith thanked Ms. Burns and wanted to understand the process. He said jobs were awarded, Ms. Burns stated they had not been awarded, just recommendations made. All contractors have been told these were recommendations and nothing was final and nothing had been awarded. He asked about some jobs not being recommended to the low bidders.

Mr. Dixon said everyone understood they would not be receiving 7-8 bids, even if they were the low bidder and all signed Notice to Bidder about the number of jobs. Mr. Dixon said they also understood there could be special recommendation if the Board decided. Ms. Burns pointed out they all signed a Notice to Bidder that was in their packet. Mr. Dixon further explained there could be a special award if the Board decided and they were asking for that special award and the County has not recommended the special award because they want to move the process. They were trying to give people homes and do so as expeditiously as possible.

Commissioner Green said the particular company had the opportunity and had 5 bids.

Ms. Burns explained they were the low bidders of 8 demo/replacement homes. The Notice to Bidders explained the maximum number of bids, at Board discretion. If they were to receive all 8, that would be at Board’s decision, but was not Staff’s recommendation.

Mr. and Mrs. Herring re-appeared before the Board. She said they were not questioning the number of bids, they knew it was up to the Board to accept or reject any and all bids. They were looking at the excessive difference in the money the County was spending on the jobs. There were two very competitive bidders with the new houses. She said to have a bid with \$34,000 difference, why not go to the next bidder and not from number 1 to number 6. She said they were questioning the overall fiscal responsibility of the awards. Mr. Herring said five awards was a given, eight was a special award and they would love to have that and would like to at least have the 5. The recommendation was they have 3 new houses and 1 rehab that they were not even the low bidder on. He said they appreciate the recommendations but were very capable of coming in and taking care of 5 jobs.

Ms. Burns re-appeared before the Board. She said just like Mr. and Mrs. Herring contacted her, all the other contractors contacted her as well. She said different things were taken into consideration and it was not always about the lowest bid.

Mr. Dixon said more was at play than the low bids.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if there were any contractors that submitted and was not awarded any jobs and Ms. Burns said no, everyone was awarded something. He asked the probability of tabling this item and making the awards more equitable.

Mr. Dixon said if the Board were going to meet again, would be optional. If not, they were delaying the process for two months.

Commissioner Green said his concern was the process they had in place was probably properly apprehended for everyone and everyone was aware of the process. He said he knew people need this but he must agree with Commissioner Viegbesie in reference to tabling this so they could make sure everyone had an equal and fair opportunity in the process they had in place so it did not come back to haunt them as a Board in the future.

Mr. Dixon said while they may not agree with Ms. Burns and Ms. Quigley's thought process, he was sure they agreed that everything was out in the open in terms of what their process was going to be. He said before he left the meeting, someone offered up that everyone received three houses and go home. He said there was no question about the quality of the contractors. Whatever the will of the Board, they will make it work.

Commissioner Green said there was a process in place and every contractor had the opportunity to follow that process and staff followed the process in selecting the people they wanted to grant the jobs to. Ms. Burns said correct.

Mr. Knowles suggested:

- 1) They could remove the two things that have a conflict and the Board could vote on that; or
- 2) If that was not amenable, the ones that was not up in the air or in question, they could vote on and those people could get their relief and not be held up.

Mr. Dixon said the problem with that, they want an award of houses that have been recommended to be awarded to someone else; an award that they understood at the beginning may not be recommended and would require the action of this Board to give them more and was not due anything unless the Board decided they were due more.

Commissioner Viegbesie said "procedure, procedure, procedure". He said they do not draw procedure up on the fly. That was the process and the process in abstaining from a vote. They were not "in the kitchen where we draw up rules as we go". Secondly, everyone did know they wanted roofs fixed but they needed to be fiscally responsible as to how they spent the money and stretched it as far as possible. They should follow the process and the procedure and do what they need to do to serve citizens of the County. If they want to approve this recommendation, someone make the motion and approve up or down.

Chair Holt said regarding on withdrawing, that was not on the fly, they could always put a motion in to withdraw that one and then could get a second and vote or they could stop the whole process and table it. If they did that, no one would get a home for two months and they would hold up everything.

Commissioner Green said based on the questions he asked, the person they put in that position, you have to trust the judgment of people in leadership positions.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 2-1 AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 2-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE OPPOSED AND COMMISSIONER HINSON AND CHAIR HOLT REMOVED THEMSELVES FROM THE VOTE.

10. Approval of Hurricane Michael FEMA Claims and Insurance Claims Audit

Mr. Dixon said he was asked to look at all programs since coming on and one thing he spent a great deal looking at was their FEMA and insurance claims. It did not strike him as being appropriate and in doing research looking at the process of how they got their insurance claims, it struck him as “needful”. He said the buildings were in the historic district and that was not a carpenter coming, they needed an artisan to work on those buildings. He said what they have been given for their insurance claims seemed light to him and they reached out to some folks, including Integrity, to look at how they could re-look at insurance claims, if possible. He said they were bringing a request to do an audit because those claims were so woefully inadequate. He said they have gotten with Integrity, who has gotten with Phoenix, who appeared before the Board prior to his arrival, and been able to put together a team of building and storm damage experts to look at their buildings and if necessary, file a supplemental or adjusted claim that they believe might yield additional money to the County. If it does not yield additional money, the County will not incur any expenses. However, should a claim be received, the County will receive 70-80%, depending on the stage it takes to conclude the matter. He said it was an urgent matter that required immediate action and was why he brought it to them. The Statue of Limitations will run out in October of this year. He said they own upwards of thirty buildings, 50 he thought, and have been able to research that they did not do a good job. They believed what the insurance company gave them and took it. He said they were in sad shape when it came to their facilities. He said they need someone to look out for the County and see what was really out there. He asked for permission, through the Integrity contract, to conduct this audit and come it back before the Board.

Commissioner Viegbesie said Integrity and Phoenix has done work since he has been aboard. He asked if this would be in addition to Integrity’s fee and Mr. Dixon said they will split 20% of the adjusted claim.

Commissioner Hinson said he remembered 4-5 years ago there was a law firm that came and did the same with EMS and said they have a law firm that worked for them and may have the capability to do the same thing.

Commissioner Viegbesie stepped out at 8:59 p.m.

Commissioner NeSmith asked the Administrator, they were talking about 70-80% of any new resources located by the consultants and Mr. Dixon stated yes. He said they have a deadline of October and Mr. Dixon said it was October 10th.

Commissioner Viegbesie returned at 9:02 p.m.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD QUESTIONS.

Commissioner Hinson said, even though he suggested they take off July, he also suggested they come back to work in July to make sure they save money for the County and have staff there. He said he would like to see the RFP go out and meet those deadlines if they came back next week or week after. He wanted to make sure they put RFP out.

Ms. Daniels appeared before the Board and stated they had to be mindful this disaster has already occurred and according to FEMA's guidelines Public Assistance Reimbursement, they cannot be reimbursed if they go out and procure another consulting firm. They already have the contract with this firm and was what FEMA required in getting the contract ahead of the disaster.

Commissioner Hinson asked if he could get that information before making that decision. He said they brought Integrity in and their job was to go out and get grants, etc., not pull in different costs. He felt it was fair to have the information in front of them before making those decisions.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he knew there was a motion and second but the reason he was supporting this, Integrity was brought in to help deal with COVID relief expenditures and this was an entirely different matter that happened in 2018. Now they were saying since Integrity was under contract, if they use whatever they have

Commissioner NeSmith wanted to make sure he understood Ms. Daniels. Whatever the amount of the 20-30% they incur to Phoenix, they have the opportunity to apply for reimbursement of those funds and Mr. Dixon said no. If they have \$1.00 in claims, the County receives .80¢ and they get 20¢ of it. Commissioner NeSmith asked where FEMA came in.

Ms. Daniels said they could not stop administrative costs related to the hurricane through FEMA and would fall under their direct administrative costs.

Commissioner Hinson said he thought it was customary as well, things that affect the budget, they had to have all the information first. This was not properly advertised, they did not receive the information, it was not on the website and they are going to vote on something the citizens did not have the opportunity to look at. It was not properly advertised, was not on the website at all. How could they vote on something they did not have a chance to review?

Commissioner NeSmith said, point of clarification, he asked the attorney if they could legally vote on it and Mr. Knowles stated of course.

Chair Holt said she wanted to say, they were not paying out any money, they would really be receiving money they would not have received.

Commissioner Green thanked her for the clarity but some situations where they may be presented information and not like it but have been elected because they trust sporadic judgment sometimes and they needed to decide and move forward.

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

11. Oak Grove Tower Site Generator

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to purchase a Generac 10KW Generator and Automatic Transfer Switch for the Oak Grove Tower Site. That site does not have a generator purchased for it until it could be sized appropriately to the equipment.

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

12. American Tower/Oak Grove Lease Amendment

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of the American Tower Corporation Tower Site Lease Amendment for the Gadsden County Radio System. He added for the record, the fiscal impact would be an additional \$298.00 and the total monthly payments would be \$968.30.

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

12a Approve Funding for the Gadsden County Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Residual Funds

Mr. Dixon said this item was for approval of the funding of the CARES Act Residual Funds.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL CONTINGENT ON CHANGING THE JOB TITLE OF ONE OF THE NEW POSITIONS FROM ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO COUNTY OPERATIONS COORDINATOR TO CHANGE GRANICUS TO A SOLE SOURCE WEBSITE SERVICE. COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner Hinson stated as he said earlier and still stood firm with the statement, \$100,000 was to go to the homeless program and was now being taken out. Then he asked the Board about \$1.4 Million going toward the Small Business program and only have \$100,000-\$200,000 remaining from that and have \$1.2 Million for the residential assistance program because it was difficult for the residents to get into it and they only used about \$400,000-\$500,000 and had a total of \$600,000-\$800,000 remaining. Now they were saying they were not going to do that. They felt it important to put \$150,000 into the Commissioner Chambers redesign and architectural/engineering for shovel ready projects \$200,000; five positions at almost \$350,000 that would be reoccurring costs in the future. He said this was the time they could give funding to the citizens and could not go against his word.

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

12b Appointment to the CareerSource Capital Region Board

Mr. Dixon said this item was for appoint of Commissioner NeSmith to the CareerSource Capital Region Board.

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

12c Approval of the Addendum to the Gadsden County Broadband Agreement

Mr. Dixon introduced the next item and said the Clerk asked them to bring back this item for clarity and for them to revote now that it has been signed.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A STATEMENT.

Commissioner Viegbesie said when he was reading this item, he had questions that needed answers and will say what he says on every item and has already been addressed today. His question on this item was exclusively for clarity and for nothing personal. He has always stated that he did not, have not met nor spoken with anyone with FCI.

- 1) What is the status of the County's verification of the devices previously distributed?
- 2) How many residents did we reach? How many residents said they did not receive a device?
- 3) How many residents said they received a device that did not work?
- 4) How many residents said they received a device and it works?
- 5) Do we have an Excel spreadsheet to show for these determinations?
- 6) Is the County responsible for paying for devices that residents said they did not receive?
- 7) IF FCI's assertion is to have provided devices to residents who responded during verification that they didn't receive them, why should we continue to discussion on any operation with evidence of questionable integrity?
- 8) Finally, now that the school year has ended, businesses are re-opening and overall COVID-19 infection rates have dropped, what is the necessity and urgency for spending almost \$1.7 Million of taxpayer funds for broadband hotspots?

Mr. Dixon said he gave a document this evening of their report on the verification situation. Staff attempted to verify the allocation of 617 devices based on the attestation from Figgers Communication and they wanted to verify their identity, home address, if they received a hotspot, if they did, to get the serial number. Based on those calls:

- **143** devices were acknowledged as received (multiple individuals confirmed receiving two devices).
- Of the 143 confirmed devices received, **32** serial numbers were provided for said devices and were deemed eligible for payment.
- Of the 143 devices received, **16** devices were confirmed operable for minimum of one day and was deemed eligible for payment.
- The remaining **111** devices were unverifiable via serial number and was deemed **ineligible** for device payment and therefore the remaining 111 devices were reported as inoperable/inactive and was deemed **ineligible** for service payment.

Based on the above verification Figgers Communication is entitled to \$1,253.20 (\$38.60 x 32 devices) in "Device Fees" and \$512.00 (\$32 x 16 Services) in "Service Fees" for a total amount owed by Gadsden County BOCC of \$1,765.20.

Commissioner Viegbesie stated he had not had the opportunity to see this.

Mr. Dixon said they conducted the survey over time, over days and evenings and where they could, leave contact information, staff was available to receive any information that was sought. If they could not verify by phone, they continued to attempt to contact based on information given for weeks and was as far as they were able to get as far as confirmation.

Commissioner Green said they have a citizen that wanted to be heard regarding this matter.

Bishop Willie C. Green, 296 Bradwell Road, Quincy, FL re-appeared before the Board. He hoped this was the last time this item would appear on the Agenda. He was hopeful they would approve and move on from this item. He thought the process, as he heard Mr. Dixon speak to the verification process that was in their contract and what they were obligated to do based on what he saw and read was to only pay him for those devices that were verifiable and operational. He believed it was time to move on from this issue and honor the contract. If there were only 18 devices that were operational and he could not justify any more than that, that was what the contract allows. His question was, why is this item still coming up as an agenda item. He said he has sat through many meetings over the past six months where they have gone back and forth on this particular issue. He felt if he were this vendor, he would be suffering from vendor abuse and it frustrates him as a concerned citizen. It was a waste of taxpayer dollars every meeting to go back and forth on this item. He said he was hopeful they would deal with this tonight, approve this item, live by what was in the contract, respect the vendor, allow him an opportunity to address any issues he needs to address, they had a competent attorney working and they should be held liable for any of the issues that were outside the bounds of this contract. He added that he had the privilege of addressing a group in another County, that Chair gave advice and said they could not vote against the Bishop.

Commissioner NeSmith asked the attorney if he had read this draft of the contract. Mr. Knowles said he wrote it. He stated it was the same document and there were no changes except what the Board requested at the April 20th meeting. Mr. Knowles stated the W-9 requirement was removed and the 30-day verification they requested was removed and 100% verification was added.

Commissioner Viegbesie said his concern was, if the assertion was 617 devices were distributed and upon attestation of the asserted item that was distributed was there were only 18 that they were asking to be paid for out of 617. He thought that was a cause to satisfy what have been verified and terminate that particular contract was his position. What they have attested that were provided should be paid and that contract should be revoked and should be cause for termination. When a provider said they have delivered and upon verification they see something totally different and the gap is so wide, to him was questioning the integrity and truthfulness of the deliverables and services provided and was a cause to terminate. He had no problem to pay what has been verified and to end the contract and it not be placed on the agenda any more. By doing so, they have honored the request of Bishop Green.

Chair Holt said they were going to vote and asked the will of the Board. Commissioner NeSmith said they had a motion and second. Chair Holt asked the will of the Board, they had a motion and second.

THE BOARD VOTED BY VOICE VOTE AND NOT EVERYONE STATED 'AYE'. CHAIR HOLT STATED THE ITEM PASSED 5-0.

Commissioner Viegbesie stated they were voting for the Addendum. Chair Holt said they already had the contract signed and needed to make sure they were voting for the contract. She said to the Attorney to remember what the Clerk said, you voted for the Addendum. Mr. Knowles stated they had approved the Agreement, they had not approved the Addendum. She said she wanted to make sure so there was no problem when they come back. Mr. Dixon said if there was a question, to approve the Agreement and Addendum.

Chair Holt asked for a motion to approve the Agreement.

Commissioner NeSmith asked point of clarification, was it on the agenda.

Chair Holt stated it had already been approved one time, they were just doing it for redundancy. She asked for a motion for approval of the Contract and Addendum.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONTRACT AND ADDENDUM AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE OPPOSED THE MOTION.

12d Cochran Road SCRAP Construction Bid Award

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item.

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

12e Board Approval of the Sub-Grant Agreement Number Z2622 for Hurricane Sally and Authorize Staff to Accept and Execute the Agreement in the Division of Emergency Management (DEM) Automated Grant System

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval for the Sub-Grant Agreement Number Z2622 for Hurricane Sally and for authorization for staff to accept and execute the agreement in the Division of Emergency Management Automated Grant System.

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

CLERK OF COURT

13. Updates

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

14. Updates

Mr. Dixon said there will not be a meeting for the month of July and asked for a Proclamation honoring June Immigrant Heritage Month.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE SAID SO MOVED AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

He reminded them that Thursday, June 17th was the Budget Workshop.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

15. Updates

Mr. Knowles stated he had no updates.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

16. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson thanked the citizens for their strength during the pandemic and asked for updates on the virus at every meeting. Mr. Dixon said Dr. Cooksey has agreed to come on Tuesday nights and provide an update.

He asked the status on Midway for the mailboxes being moved on Brickyard Road. Mr. Dixon said Mr. Lee and his staff has been in touch with DOT.

Justin Ford, Dewberry, said this was a DOT project. The County's hands have been out of it. He said the concerns were raised originally by the City of Midway and they were put in touch with DOT and did not get the answer they were looking for. Ultimately, it is not the County's decision. DOT's stance is the brick mailboxes within the clear zone they don't allow it. The County, over the years have allowed them to be constructed in that area, but if DOT is paying for those to be relocated, they will not pay for that brick mailbox to be removed and replaced. Mr. Dixon said for the record, if it was on that side of the ditch and is a brick mailbox, it is illegal.

Commissioner Hinson mentioned this is Mental Health Awareness Month.

Subcontracting Lawn Services

He said they had talked about this and might need to have a special meeting within the next two weeks because the grass was growing heavily all over the County. He asked for this to go on the Agenda.

Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, District 3

Commissioner NeSmith thanked the Administrator, Staff and Public Works and said the community was looking much better. He thanked Ms. Bradley for keeping up with the schedule and Ms. Robinson for keeping up with the training he has to attend.

He said he also met with one of the City of Quincy Commissioners and asked if they could establish a consortium. Mr. Dixon said the Managers have agreed to sit down and talk along with a representative of each body to start a conversation. He said they had met with the City of Quincy within the past few weeks as well as the School District on broadband and other

issues and certainly appreciated the cooperation. He said there will be a meeting with the School district on Thursday regarding the broadband.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5

Commissioner Green thanked those that participated in Shiloh Day.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR THE TAU PSI ZETA CHAPTER OF THE ZETA PHI BETA SORORITY AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. (MOTION WAS PREVIOUSLY MADE AT JUNE 1, 2021 MEETING.)

Commissioner Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, District 2

Commissioner Viegbesie made a request and said at one point in the past, they had an email group for citizens of the County, when Ulysses Jenkins and Olivia Smith was PIO. They had a email batch of citizens and when information was sent out, it also went out to that group of citizens and if still have email bank, suggested they continue to use it. If they no longer have the list or have access to what was put together then because of changes in Administration and PIO’s, asked they try to find a way to collect and email a group of citizens across the County so when there are things going on and announcements need to be made, they could get information out. He said he has found the information was no longer getting out as it was in the past and they may not have access to that email bank.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Chair Holt asked if the Administrator if they had a Development and Review Committee. She said that was something some other counties had when there was a large development coming. Another thing, they talked about churches not having to do the paving, they may want to consider to increase the size of the ditch so water would slope that way.

She said Commissioner Hinson mentioned about a cutting crew and she wanted to look at road striping in District 4.

Also, when cities annex, they need to look at them taking or not taking the roads. Mr. Knowles said he was working on it.

Receipt and File

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
June 15, 2021 – Regular Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:06 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

BRENDA A. HOLT, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk