

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON SEPTEMBER 7, 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 – appeared remotely
 Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
 Ronterious "Ron" Green, District 5
 Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
 Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
 Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk
 Sara Green, Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Holt called the meeting to order at 6:02 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 stated he would like to pull items 5, 10, 13, and 14 from the Agenda.

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

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

GCDC Update

Beth Cicchetti, GCDC, appeared before the Board and Antonio Jefferson addressed the Board through her cell phone.

Mrs. Cicchetti then gave the Board an update.

(Commissioner Hinson arrived at 6:10 p.m.-had previously appeared by Zoom)

Mrs. Cicchetti introduced Ronnie Bryant and he appeared before the Board.

He shared he had been working with her for over a year.

1. Quality and quantity of established workforce in area.

Commissioner Green said he has had the pleasure working with her. He asked what investment the Board was making now and what do they need to invest.

Mrs. Cicchetti said the current investment was just under \$60,000/year.

Commissioner Viegbesie said the compliment given to her was an understatement. They have a jewel they could work with.

Chair Holt said the purpose of the trip to Mississippi was to see how successful they were and how they were working with the school system to see how they were getting people ready for jobs ahead of time with certification, etc.

She asked Mrs. Cicchetti if Leon County or the City of Tallahassee gave \$2.5 Million and she answered she did not know the details. She added they need to look at how they invest in economic development.

Commissioner Green said she touched on the Amazon deal, did she have a conversation with anyone that worked with Amazon on Amazon coming here. She said infrastructure and talent development was the way they would get warehousing distribution operators like Amazon to invest in Gadsden County. She said they had regional distributors, such as Safelite Auto Glass that do that.

Chair Holt said once the 1000 jobs in Leon was up and running, they may need to look at transportation to get people back and forth.

Commissioner Hinson said this was a pet peeve of his. He said they need to look at how they could generate more revenue.

Commissioner Green asked what they were, dollar-wise, they were giving to the Chamber and may need to revisit what they give to the Chamber and to GCDC.

Commissioner Viegbesie explained Leon County's Blueprint 2020.

Commissioner NeSmith said they need a workshop and need to address infrastructure.

Chair Holt said she agreed.

Antonio Jefferson readdressed the Board and thanked them.

Chair Holt mentioned Madison County has a model they use and bring in everyone from the School Board to all entities in the County. She added that Gadsden BOCC made up the GCDC and the Chamber was a member only organization

Gadsden County Health Department Update

Mr. Dixon stated the Director could not be here but sent information wanted it presented. The number of vaccinated residents age 12 and older was 24,601, the percentage of residents vaccinated was at 62% and had 7,915 COVID cases and the positivity rate was 23.9%. They anticipate booster shots will be rolling out around September 25th.

Commissioner Green said his concern and question was, how proactive was the County being and asked for clarification.

Commissioner Hinson said there have been two games, FSU and FAMU and people were not wearing masks. He stated they needed to have an emergency meeting and have someone come here to explain what the monoclonal was all about. Mr. Dixon said he would run that down.

Commissioner Viegbesie said the Governor has been pushing that cocktail for the longest. He said it would help when you start feeling the symptoms of COVID.

Chair Holt asked about the death rate as it has stopped being posting on the DOH website. She said they need help in that area and need to know how many may have lost their lives.

Commissioner Hinson said 3-4 weeks ago, they received something where 300-400 people died. Older people were getting vaccinated and the younger ones were not.

Proclamation Honoring the Loss of Lives on September 11, 2001

CONSENT

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

1. **Ratification Memo**
2. **Approval of Minutes**
 - **August 3, 2021 Budget Workshop**
3. **Approval for Adopt-A-Road Agreement with Protect Me Farms for Harbin Road**

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Anyone wishing to speak on agenda items or non-agenda items should schedule or notify the County Administrator's Office before attending the meeting and will be asked to follow the Gadsden County Public Meetings Citizens Access Guidelines. Also, public comment for Commission meetings can be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until 11:00 a.m. August 17, 2021. Comments submitted after the deadline but prior to the meeting will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting.

Mr. Knowles read aloud the statement.

Bishop Willie C. Green, 296 Bradwell Road, Quincy, FL appeared before the Board and said his concern was the COVID virus.

Libby Henderson, 195 Gardner Avenue, Greensboro, FL 32330 appeared before the Board and wanted to let them know and make them aware the Town of Greensboro has in the past and will continue to see that fire protection was provided to the western side of the County. She said they were still in the rebuilding phase of the fire department and wanted them to know they were very interested in working with the County to work out a solution.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

4. Approval to Submit a Grant Application to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), CDBG General Infrastructure Round 2 Grant Program Seeking Funds to Repair, Stabilize and Pave Portions of Juniper Creek Road and Providence Road

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was for Board approval to submit a CDBG general infrastructure Round 2 application seeking \$2,075,782.50 for the stabilization, repair and paving of segments of Juniper Creek Road and Providence Road and approval of consultant fees.

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

~~5. Approval for the Chairman to Sign Grant Forms, and Approval of a Work Authorization with The Integrity Group (Integrity) to Provide CDBG Grant Consulting Services~~

Item Pulled

6. Hutchinson Ferry Road Bridge Repairs-Change Order No. 1

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval of Change Order 1 for additional work completed due to unforeseen conditions associated with the Hutchinson Ferry Road bridge repairs.

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

7. Extension of 2021 Tax Roll pursuant to Sections 197.323 and 193.122 F.S.

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was for approval for the tax roll to be extended prior to the completion of the Value Adjustment Board proceedings.

Dale Summerford, Tax Collector, appeared before Board and said this was provided for the Board to approve that the Tax Roll be extended prior to the completion of the VAB proceedings.

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

8. Approval of the Medical Director Agreement

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item.

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

9. Approval to Add Greenshade Volunteer Fire Department as a Participating Entity to the Fuel Services Inter-Local Agreement

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item.

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

~~10. Approval of Fire Department Inter-Local Fire and Rescue Service Agreements~~

Item Pulled

11. Approval and Execution of State Aid Grant Agreement

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was a funding source for the library.

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

12. Approval of the Agreement for Geographical Information System (GIS) Services and Housing Technical Assistance Services with the Apalachicola Regional Planning Council (ARPC)

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval of an agreement with GIS services with Apalachicola Regional Planning Council.

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

Chair Holt asked if they could receive a new map.

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

13. Leasing Agreement

Item Pulled

14. Approval of the Rudd Pest Control Agreement

Item Pulled

15. Board Direction/Action regarding the Partial Funding of New Fire Engine/Pumper Truck that the City of Chattahoochee purchased for the City of Chattahoochee Fire Department

Mr. Dixon said this item was responding to the City of Chattahoochee's request for partial funding from the BOCC for a previously purchased fire engine. He said Mr. Robert Presnell and the Mayor attended the meeting a few weeks ago. He stated there was a budget line item tagging City of Chattahoochee fire department but they have been unable to find any documentation relating to this. The Fire Chief and EMS Chief have told him they were opposed to it. While it was in the budget, they purchased the item two fiscal years ago. This has not followed the usual procedure and was not an item he could recommend. He stated it was not a matter of if the money was there, it was a matter of if it followed the protocol of the Board.

Commissioner Viegbesie said this was the item they discussed before, the City Manager was before them. If the Fire Chief and EMS Chief disagrees with the expenditure, he did not think they should do it. He asked if he was understanding this happened two fiscal years ago and Mr. Dixon said yes, he believed so. He said the expenditure occurred last fiscal year and there were no minutes. He did not know where this was coming from.

Chair Holt asked when the fire engine was purchased and was told either 2019 or 2020. She said either way, there was no Minutes from the Board and they had no basis to spend \$150,000. If it was not approved, they could not vote for it. She said another thing, if it was put in the line item in the budget, someone had to put it there. She said they were good people but mistakes were made. The County does not purchase things for other people, fire trucks belong to the County, vehicles belong to the County.

Commissioner Hinson said he was perplexed by this. The Board voted for it. The Clerk sent information out.

Commissioner Green asked if they voted for it, what did they vote for? He said was torn in which direction he would head. The truck would serve a purpose, but protocol was not followed; now Commissioner Hinson said it was approved. If there was nothing in writing, he could not support the item.

Commissioner Hinson asked if the Clerk recalled the email he sent to the Board last week. The Clerk said it was not found in the Minutes, was not keyed in the Budget but was included in the Final Budget in a line item; which indicated someone had a discussion with Chattahoochee, someone clearly did not follow through with bringing it before the Board. There were no Minutes or agreement to support it.

Mr. Dixon said as the Clerk said, they were not saying wrong or right, when things are in the budget they don't understand, they will bring it to them. Such as they had to bring items earlier in the year where mistakes were found.

Commissioner Viegbesie said from what the Clerk said, it confirmed what he felt happened, was due to staff...if there was no records or Minutes, he was uncomfortable with it.

Chair Holt asked if the Administrator said it was put it in the Budget for this year. Mr. Dixon stated, as the Clerk had said, it was in the budget approval.

The Clerk said it was in the budget document but the line item was not keyed into the budget system for 2021. Chair Holt said that was where she was having a problem with staff. Mr. Dixon said they have brought a number of situations before them of budget issues.

Chair Holt asked if they could get someone in Budget to do the budget.

Commissioner Hinson said some people talk and the answer was right in their face. He asked they ponder on what he said, it was not the person they think, it was the person in their face they should be thinking about.

Commissioner NeSmith said he spoke with the City Administrator and with the County Administrator, if they County took ownership of truck for \$150,000, was that out of protocol?

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if he was understanding in the conversation that Chief Walker and Chief Maddox promised to give Chattahoochee a fire truck in lieu of and then did not accept the offer for the fire truck, so that he understood, it was not about the firetruck but about the money.

Mr. Dixon said the County had just purchased them a brush truck. The County has shown nothing but willingness to work with every city and every community. He said a truck was offered but was rejected.

Chair Holt said she did not think there was anyone on the Board that would not work with all the fire stations and all the cities. They have to have documentation on what they do and spend.

Commissioner Hinson asked if it was ok for the Board to think about it? They need to do an investigation, it could be something critical. Why couldn't they get someone to look into this? They need to find out who plugged that in.

Commissioner Green said he thought it was already investigated; however, the truck has been purchased, will be used for the purpose it was purchased for, this was a teachable moment for him and other leaders to make sure they were following the proper protocol. If investigated, they would still get the same results.

Commissioner Viegbesie said three of the commissioners on dais has been Chair before and they knew once an item was discussed and approved, before the Chair leaves this building, the Chair signs the documents. That meant it was never approved by Board. It got into the budget but was not a budgeted item that came before this Board for approval and he was very uncomfortable with the item.

COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE \$150,000 WITH A CAVEAT THE COUNTY TAKE OWNERSHIP OF THE TRUCK AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 2-3 BY VOICE VOTE. CHAIR HOLT, COMMISSIONER GREEN AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE OPPOSED. MOTION FAILED.

CHAIR HOLT MADE A MOTION THEY DO NOT APPROVE THE \$150,000 FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE TRUCK IN CHATTAHOOCHEE AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER NESMITH OPPOSED.

16. Appointment to the Circuit 2 Alliance Community Action Team (Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty and Wakulla)

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was presented to appoint/reappoint a member to the Circuit 2 Alliance Community Action Team.

CHAIR HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPOINT COMMISSIONER GREEN AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE HAD COMMENTS.

Commissioner Viegbesie suggested they should include staff to be able to be able to take notes and bring information back to the Administrator and said the next item was in the same capacity.

Commissioner NeSmith thanked Commissioner Viegbesie for advocating for an aide.

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

17. Appointment to the Big Bend Continuum of Care (CoC) Board

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPOINT COMMISSIONER GREEN OR COMMISSIONER NESMITH TO THIS POSITION. CHAIR HOLT SAID THEY HAD TO ACCEPT IT.

Commissioner NeSmith respectfully declined the appointment.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO KEEP COMMISSIONER HINSON AND CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND. CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT. COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.

Commissioner Hinson stated he had a question before they voted. He stated he has served on the board for the past 5-6 years and wanted to give someone else the opportunity to serve.

Commissioner Green said if he was willing to give up the appointment, he would serve.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPOINT COMMISSIONER GREEN AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. CHAIR HOLT ASKED ABOUT THE MOTION ALREADY MADE AND APPROVED. COMMISSIONER GREEN RESCINDED HIS MOTION AND CHAIR HOLT RESCINDED HER SECOND.

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

CLERK OF COURT

18. Updates

The Clerk was present and said he will give a full accounting next week of the American Rescue spending.

He also wanted to go on record about churches and needed to be clear, the money given to them could not be used for religious purposes. They could receive the funds but could not use any of it for religious purposes and needed to be emphasized, it had to be used for non-religious purposes such as after-school program, tutoring, feeding kids, etc.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

19. Updates

Mr. Dixon said they wanted to appreciate the Clerk's Office because they had been having a lot of stuff come through and as Commissioner Hinson asked, it was a dance because they have regular payroll, budget, and it was "sliding" in when they have an off week or a down week to get something out like the payments. That was a whole other situation and they wanted to show appreciation for their Office, Trudei and all of the others. As the Clerk mentioned, they were able to give every employee, theirs and the Constitutional Officers a \$1200.00 bonus for their services during this past year. They knew how much they had to be here and had to leave their families and while everyone else was quarantining, they had to carry the County on. All of their people were essential (employees) and thanked the Commissioners for showing the County family that kind of love. He said they were working on a response to the Delta Virus, it was something different. He said they will attempt to get them the budget for the next fiscal year. He apologized for the time it has taken, they keep bumping into holes in the road and was trying their very best.

He said Thursday will be the first public hearing at 6:00. They will try to have a workshop between now and the final budget hearing that was scheduled for September 20th at 6:00 p.m. He said it has been a torturous process to try to figure out what was happening.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked for an update on the Senior center funding for 2021. He said he understood the centers have not received their obligated disbursement for this fiscal year. Mr. Dixon said there was a staffer that was responsible for that; one or two have been submitted and rest have been found and sent to the Clerk's office. They have also received calls about the air conditioning. He said they were on the lease for \$1.00 and the leasee and leasor have not made any investments. They are redoing the roof and while the roof was off, they plan on redoing the units. Commissioner Viegbesie asked when they could they expect their allocated disbursements be sent to them and Mr. Dixon said real soon.

Commissioner Viegbesie then asked what was going on at the Quincy Senior Center. There were so many emails and so much confusion.

Mr. Dixon said he has tried to stay out of it. Mrs. Blackshear has attended some meetings, requested some documents that that request started a fire storm. She attended a meeting and there were threats of the County taking over the Center. He said they have not participated in that.

Commissioner Viegbesie said to the Commissioners, they may be young today, the young shall soon grow old. He added it was not about a particular democracy, but taking care of the Seniors of the County. Let us work in preserving the Seniors. Let us do what we must do and take the ego out of this and take care of them.

Chair Holt said she has received calls. She said if someone contracts and get money from the County, give the BOCC their plan and show what they were using the money for.

Commissioner Green said he was one that was also called. Now that he has heard it was in the process and hopes it would be sooner than later.

Commissioner Hinson said two things he was passionate about, kids and seniors. What gives him heartburn was that they are so calm about it as a Board. The money was approved last year in October, 2020. The fiscal year ends end of this month. He read aloud an email he received.

Commissioner Viegbesie said they were all are in defense of the current Administrator. He came in December and the budget was in October. He asked the Clerk to work with them in getting the money out.

Chair Holt said this was not anything they had not already discussed. They all agreed they wanted to see what they were doing. She did not see hold anything or not giving the general information, if they are given money, they should get some type of documentation. She wanted to see the Seniors get the money.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if they have conditions written into the contract with the Centers that they are accountable to this body? If not, they need to include that request. If it was in there, they need to have them adhere to the contract.

Chair Holt said they have to make reports to the Department of Elder Affairs.

Mr. Dixon said he wanted to clear the record. The conversation Commissioner Hinson referred to was with the Executive Director of the Senior Citizen Center. He has been meeting with the Chairman, Mrs. Cunningham in June and she requested a letter and the conversation was about funding then. He asked for documentation and was told they would not provide anything because the County was trying to take over and he said no, they were trying to add energy and money if they could figure out how to do it. She said she would not furnish anything. In June he directed all funds be paid to every Senior Center because they had not expected them to do anything up to now and will deal with it next year. To that point was when they found out someone was walking around with the budget in their pocket. He said when the Clerk said things were not keyed into the system, that was what he meant, it was in someone's pocket. To his chagrin, he thought they had been funded and they had not; they had to go into someone's office, get the information and present it to the Clerk's Office.

He called Mrs. Smith to the podium. He asked in her development of Seniors program, she communicated with the Senior Citizens Center and the Executive Director and asked what was requested from her. She stated she asked for Personnel Policies, Customer Service Policies and anything she had that would enhance their program. She said she asked for it because she was trying to put something together on the County's end and was in looking for grants, that information was needed. She said at first the response was "Ok, I'll get it to you" and the next email was she was not going to get it because her attorney said she did not have to provide that information.

Commissioner Hinson said there was a big difference, they were a non-profit organization. He said the BOCC could compete for the same grants so why should the information be given up and possibly compete against them.

Mr. Dixon said they were informed the County was applying for grants FOR them.

Ms. Smith said they never intended to compete but to compliment the program.

Chair Holt said they were told years ago there were hundreds of thousands of dollars not applied for.

Commissioner Green said based on what he has heard, there has been some miscommunication and understanding somewhere down the line. He said the ultimate goal was the seniors and that they were all concerned about them.

Chair Holt said to the Administrator it would be good to have them on the Agenda. They also needed to have the Department of Elder Affairs and the Director of the Center here.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

20. Updates

Mr. Knowles said if they want to change their vote, it could be done before the next item was called. If the next item was called, that was where it comes in who was in the majority or who voted for it. He suggested if that happened in the future, after the vote was taken, he would expect a motion to reconsider the vote and then go back and do that.

He said in their master agreement with the Senior Centers, almost all of the contracts have a records inspection provision so if the County gives money, they have the right to go in with reasonable notice and inspect any documents requested. He said if it became a problem, let him know and the appropriate steps could be taken.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he was glad he said that and they need to do a better job in educating recipients of their funding. They need to let them know up front, if they are accepting funds from the County, the County has a right to ask for records.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

21. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson said seniors was first on his list. He said a few years back; the Board gave instructions for a card to be filled out. They had a staff member that wanted to resign because of stress they were under. He said they had to be careful, they could not bully people the wrong way because they had authority to do it. He said everything was not out in the open, there was more to it.

He asked about Figgers Communication and Mr. Dixon said it was not coming. They last communicated with them, they sent a letter of good intentions they would like to continue the contract, the County was now caught in the budget and did not have staff to work with them. He said they have tried to come up with new ideas to work with them and they intend to follow through. They were currently working on trying to get the budget out. Commissioner Hinson said hotspots will be a key issue again. He asked with issues like that, could an attorney negotiate that?

Commissioner Green said he had his hand up because the Administrator answered and they knew the Asst. Administrator has been bombarded with their Budget Manager being out. His issue was he received another email that there had been no communication since the last and he asked if he had responded to FCI at all as to where they were with the invoice. Mr. Dixon said he thought he had but will certainly do so in the morning.

Commissioner Viegbesie stepped out at 8:40 p.m.

Chair Holt said in the contract it said the verification would be done by the Administrator or his designee. Commissioner Hinson said the issue was, you could not stop the government from running, they had to figure things out.

Mr. Dixon said they were trying a new avenue that would be a better way to pass out the hotspots.

Chair Holt said they were looking at the black and white of the contract and the Administrator was the key person.

Commissioner Viegbesie said broadband was the priority for the current national administration and FAC was very serious about broadband, especially in the rural areas. He thought they needed to look at broadband connectivity as the way to improve and connect internet service to the citizens.

Commissioner Hinson thanked GCDC for their update.

He added that vaccinations were a serious thing in the County. He said he would not feel great until they were at 100%. He said the School Board has funding to encourage kids about vaccines. He said maybe they should talk to the Superintendent about his plans and make sure he was serious about the situation.

Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, District 3

Commissioner NeSmith thanked the County Administrator and Mr. Lee and Public Works for addressing some issues with a public right-of-way as far as cutting and trimming.

He said the “Love Where You Live campaign” was discussed earlier and he would now channel Commissioner Green and if they could have signage in neighborhoods as a part of the campaign and need signage to identify the communities.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5

Commissioner Green said he also spoke with the Administrator and he assured him they were working on that.

He said he sent pictures to Mr. Lee on Spooner Road of a pile of bulky items and wanted it picked up before something serious happened.

He also asked for limb trimming on Joe Adams Road.

He asked for a Resolution for Penny Peacock O’Connell’s family.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION FOR MRS. PENNY O’CONNELL AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

He said he received an email from Highway 27 BBQ and Grill and thought Commissioner Viegbesie received one as well since this was in his district. They are asking for a beer and wine license and was getting the run-around because there was a church close-by. They church has owned the property for over 20 years and there was nothing on the property. He said they have said they want growth and want businesses to come but could not grow if they were always

saying no. Mr. Dixon said he was aware of the situation and it has been Asked if way-Dixon said scheduled for the next meeting.

He asked for a workshop for COVID.

Commissioner Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, District 2

Commissioner Viegbesie said he was going to start with comments from Commissioner Green regarding Highway 27. Yes, the email came to him and he forwarded it to the County Administrator. His response was the County did not give liquor licenses.

He suggested they create a Community Recovery Resilience Task Force to assist with disaster preparedness and response. He said it would be a community body that would work with EMS and the County and would bring the community members to assist with disasters.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he was doing his best to cut back on what he requests and now was requesting that they strongly consider to look for a way to provide aides.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Chair Holt asked for a Proclamation for Saturday FOR 9/11.

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

She asked for a Proclamation for Tallahassee Community College Workforce proclaiming October as Manufacturing Month.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE MOTION AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. SHE STATED THAT WAS APPROVED.

She said they needed to stop large Item pick-up and should have people take it to the dump.

She asked when the mobile unit was coming on line and he said it was being designed now. She said they could use it as part of COVID education.

She said to have economic development, they needed to look at the sites.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if they have rescheduled the trip to the Golden Triangle and Chair Holt said it was up to the Board.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he did not think need to go there to get their model, they could send the model. He said his position was, where they are today was not where they were when it started. So, if they go look at it today, they could not see where they were.

Chair Holt said if they stood next to a person eating, they were not going to get full. They must go and find out how the machine worked, get the knowledge and bring it back; how they got the school systems to buy into it. They needed to get the technology and information and bring it back.

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 9:10 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk