

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON NOVEMBER 2, 2021 AT 6:00
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4
Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, Vice Chair, District 2
Eric Hinson, District 1
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
Ronterious "Ron" Green, District 5
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk
Sara Green, Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Holt called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., asked for a moment of silence and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Dixon asked to table Item 16 and Item 18.

Mr. Knowles added Item 18a - Gadsden County Participation in National Opioid Litigation.

(No Motion, Second or Vote was taken on Amendments and Approval of the Agenda. Chair Holt moved onto the Consent Agenda.)

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

CONSENT

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

- 1. Ratification Memo**
- 2. Approval of Minutes**
 - September 7, 2021 Workshop
 - September 21 2021 BCC Meeting
- 3. Records Management for Florida Public Law Enforcement Agencies Training Request**
- 4. Approval of Funding from the Law Enforcement Education Training Fund for Staff to Attend the 2021 Florida Sheriff's Association Executive Leadership Conference and Fleet Exhibition**
- 5. 12th Annual Instructor Training Seminar**
- 6. Approval of Temporary Construction Easement I-10 & US 90**

7. Approval of The Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA) Inter-Local Agreement

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 Noon November 2, 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.

Commissioner Green read aloud the above statement.

Angie Pitts

Larry Ganus

Libby Henderson

Joe Parramore

Dan Hunter

PUBLIC HEARINGS

8. Public Hearing- First Reading of the Ordinance Relating to Immigration Services; Creating Article XX, Section XX-XXX of the Code of Ordinances of Gadsden County, Florida; Prohibiting the Unlicensed Practice of Law for the Provision of Immigration Services

Mr. Dixon explained this was the first reading of this Ordinance relating to Immigration Services.

Mr. Knowles said they have created this Ordinance and recommended Option 1. He explained in the translation of "notario público", it could mean an attorney or individual licensed to practice law and the Ordinance sought to prohibit this unscrupulous behavior by providing for fines and penalties to be codified into Gadsden County's Code of Ordinances.

Chair Holt announced this was a public hearing and asked if there were any comments from audience and there was none.

Commissioner Viegbesie said as of the most recent census, the Hispanic population stands at 10.9%. This Ordinance is being passed by all Counties across the state.

Commissioner NeSmith asked the attorney if this would infringe on Hispanics rights and he explained *notaries* or *notaries públicos* when translated into other languages, especially Spanish, could be misleading as it translates to mean attorney or individual licensed to practice law.

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

9 Public Hearing-Second Reading of Road Adoption Ordinance 2021-010; Adopting Procedures to Acquire Property Interest in and Accept into the County Maintenance System Under Certain Conditions Certain Private Roadways Located Within the Unincorporated Area of the County

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and Mr. Knowles further explained the Ordinance.

Larry Ganus, 2174 Frank Smith Road, Quincy, FL appeared before the Board. He suggested an adjustment to the Ordinance because the mileage in the ordinance would not sufficiently serve his neighborhood. He would like to add a modification to the proposed ordinance to read something to the effect that “the county shall not acquire property interest in or accept maintenance responsibility more than one totaled mile of private roads per district per fiscal year or one private road per district per fiscal year if such route exceeds 1 mile with the exception that if a subdivision or development has less than 3 miles of road the county would consider accepting all of the roadways and the subdivision or development at one time.”

Commissioner Green asked the Administrator if he had done due diligence based upon letters received and he said no, he had not had a chance to. Commissioner Green suggested they not vote on this item until due diligence was done on the item.

Mr. Dixon said the way Mr. Ganus had laid this out could be 3 miles in one district at one time and they do not wish to have because they could be taking 8 miles into the system for that year. He said that was something they were attempting to stay away from because of managing the assets the county has and not being stretched too thin.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he spoke with Mr. Ganus and brought to his attention his email was actually sent to the old Board and the two new Commissioners did not receive it. Since the Administrator had not had the opportunity to look into it, he asked if it could be tabled a week and the attorney said yes, but if they make substantial changes they would have to start over.

Chair Holt asked Ms. Steele to show a video of a flooded road in a neighborhood.

Commissioner Viegbesie said there were also other roads that looked like that in other districts. He said he understood the request and wished he could make a motion to adopt the ordinance with that change but was unsure it would pass.

Commissioner Green thanked her for the video and said he would support it because they could add in the future.

Mr. Dixon said he and Mr. Knowles had struggled about the roll-out of the program. He added they might be coming back in the future to say it was too cumbersome and how it was laid out.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if he was understanding that even if this one mile per year was adopted, it could come back. Mr. Dixon explained.

Chair Holt said in some instances, farms closed down and had water pipes from wells and septic lines running under the road. She said they need to know where infrastructure is because if there were pipes under the road and a pipe burst, for people to not think the county would fix it. There were certain things they could not do.

Commissioner Hinson said he spent many years with Mr. Ganus on the Planning Commission and the only reason he would considering tabling, he needed to know first how much they have in gas tax and how much they were forecasting to get in tax before deciding. If they do not do it right the first time, it may take a lifetime. They need to take time and have one big workshop. It was his opinion to table until they have all the information.

Commissioner NeSmith thanked him for the insight they did not consider before. In light of the letter received, he did think they needed to move forward with adoption of the language in front of them because they could amend. He added he did not want to sacrifice progress for language just received. He was in support with moving forward with the current item.

Commissioner Viegbesie said in addition to the request from Commissioner Hinson, he would like to workshop the process and look at costs of maintaining a 1-mile road, how much it would cost per year.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER NESMITH AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER GREEN, THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM. COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.

GENERAL BUSINESS

10. Approval of the Town of Greensboro Volunteer Fire Department's Interlocal Fire and Rescue Service Agreement

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the inter-local fire and rescue service agreement between the County and the Town of Greensboro's volunteer fire department. They are currently in a situation with the former volunteer fire department and have met with the parties several times. It comes down to the Town of Greensboro and their ability to take care of herself with the county's help.

He implored to Mr. Parramore to go back and hold a conversation with Greensboro.

Dan Hunter, 202 East Lake Road, Quincy Florida, appeared before Board. Over the past 7 months, men and women who were part of the volunteer fire department have created a new 501(c) and they no longer had confidence in the Town protecting firefighters due to the Town not maintaining and replacing aging equipment. As a non-profit, they exist solely to provide fire services. Each person stands to profit zero. They intend to be a community's fire department. They have partners willing to stand ready and able to provide service. The new Board does welcome the opportunity to partner with the Town. Their decision to award this to Greensboro, Inc. will be neighbors helping neighbors.

Angie Pitts, 3849 Bristol Hwy, Quincy Florida appeared before the Board. She stated she was embarrassed to be standing before them in regard to this matter. They should stand together

as a community. She explained to the Board that currently without the fire protection, the ISO rating would put them in protection class 10 and for the citizens that would be detrimental. She asked they allow the fire protection to remain under the Town for the protection of the citizens and Town of Greensboro.

Dr. Joe Parramore appeared before the Board. Public safety refers to the welfare and safety of the general public. The primary goal is prevention and safety to the general public. Men and women sacrifice lives simply because they have a service heart. It is imperative they be provided with any and all necessary equipment. If the servant is not protected, neither is the public. Volunteers have tried repeatedly to work with Greensboro. They have attempted to enlist help from the County Administrator and Fire Chief.

Libby Henderson, 195 Gardner Avenue, Greensboro, FL appeared before the Board. She has spoken to them before to assure the Town of Greensboro wants to continue to work with the County to provide fire protection for the citizens of the town of Greensboro. The town believes in strong dedication to the County. Former members demanded the Town take action by surrendering money to spend as they saw fit and that would violate the contract with the County. When the Council voted they would not do that, they quit and walked out. She joined Mrs. Pitts in apologizing to them. When they quit and walked out, they took their bunker gear and radios with them. What was taken and not returned has put them in a bad situation. They cannot serve within the Town limits without an when agreement with Greensboro. They are not in a position to be awarded the contract. She asked they ratify the contract with Greensboro.

Commissioner Green said this was very disheartening. He asked the attorney for some legal advice.

Mr. Knowles said an incorporated area was different from unincorporated areas. He further elaborated on the issues.

Commissioner Green said where he was with it, he has followed it for several months. He added he did not live in that district but has concerns for the entire County. If there were no firefighters now, what has happened in the last 6 months? Who has volunteered over the last few months? At end of the day, it was about providing service for ones that live there.

Commissioner Viegbesie reaffirmed his feeling of disappointment. While not a resident of that area, he was a Gadsden County citizen. One question was what was the operating status of the town of Greensboro, he heard it was non-existent. According to a recent newspaper report, he understood there are vacancies that impede the town government to make policies. Would the volunteer fire department be willing to sit with the town of Greensboro government to come to a meeting of the minds? His focus was about the safety of the citizens.

Libby Henderson reappeared before the Board. She thanked Commissioner Viegbesie for his concern and explained there were two working moms on the town council that resigned but they still have enough members to have a quorum. Chair Holt asked how many members were on the town council and Mrs. Henderson explained there were five members and the mayor. The mayor was a nonvoting member.

Commissioner Green asked how many committed volunteers they have. Mrs. Henderson explained there was one present in the room and there were 3 to 4 more ready to go. Chief Walker has made sure they were covered with fire coverage. She also asked for the commissioners to keep in mind that the previous volunteers walked out.

Dr. Parramore reappeared before the board to clarify that the volunteers did not just walk out. On April 12th there is a video and in conversations Mrs. Henderson could be heard saying if the volunteers did not like the way funds were being spent, they could find somewhere else to go. He added they have repeatedly attempted to talk and work things out with the town. The town has not shown any willingness to do so. He believed it was because they were called into question as to how they were spending taxpayer dollars. He further clarified that the funds were not be used to pay for certain services.

Commissioner Viegbesie said his question was on point as to what he heard as to why the volunteers left and why they were at an impasse. He asked Dr. Parramore why was there a question on the issue with the concern on spending taxpayer funds.

Dr. Parramore said he was contacted by Mr. Hunter about spending and what they deemed was misappropriation of funds. He did a public records request and found they were paying a large portion of the town clerks' salary, Florida retirement system benefits, health insurance benefits, the town's liability insurance was called into question in which they never responded and there was a number of questionable expenses when the lack of equipment existed in that department and took 10 months to order the chief's bunker gear. He explained other ongoing concerns as to their ability to maintain. Those concerns are what has brought this to an impasse. February 8th, Mr. Willis asked the fire department if they wanted to separate and they said yes. Mrs. Henderson made a formal motion that the firefighters bring back a plan for the town to consider. They came back and made no demands because they never had an opportunity to present a plan. Mrs. Henderson made remarks if they were unhappy with the way the town was spending the dollars, they could find somewhere else to go.

Chair Holt said in looking at a couple of things, it was public equipment and public dollars. Unless something is given away or auctioned off it has to be on public property. If there are allegations of misappropriations of funds, that becomes an issue. She asked Mr. Knowles to look into it and asked the firemen to return the equipment to its proper place. She asked him to look into the legal issues first. She added Greensboro needs to show they have taken care of their financial obligations.

James Shellman from Chattahoochee appeared to discuss a mobile home he was trying to get moved in. Mr. Dixon asked him to give his number to staff and they could discuss later.

Commissioner NeSmith said he has been quiet because he has been involved with the discussions since the beginning. He has had a chance to work with the volunteers and considered them to be very passionate. He also has worked with Dennis Henderson and this has been an ongoing issue. He was in support of them moving on this action tonight. He said he does recognize the authority of the town of Greensboro and regardless whatever fire department comes into their town, they have the ultimate authority.

Chair Holt asked to speak with Chief Walker.

Chief Walker appeared before the Board. Chair Holt asked him to get an inventory of equipment and she wanted financial records from the town of Greensboro.

Commissioner Green wanted to make sure he understood the request. Chair Holt said they need an inventory of the equipment and the town of Greensboro needed to get their documents.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he thought that was a good direction that they have a proper inventory and would be interested in getting an itemized spending because that seems to be an issue between the parties. They need to get to the bottom of this.

Commissioner Green said that was why he asked about the money being audited or accounted for because that would depend on how he voted tonight.

Commissioner NeSmith said he supported any acquisition of documentation for funds. He spoke with the Administrator earlier and asked if he was aware of any issues prior and he did not bring any concerns to his attention.

Mr. Dixon said what was he referring to was not how every dollar goes to the fire truck.

Commissioner NeSmith said felt comfortable based on allocation at that time and was comfortable in moving forward.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 OF THE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT CONTINGENT TO PROVISIONS OF EXPLANATION ON HOW THE MONEY HAS BEEN SPENT.

Mr. Knowles asked if that was prior monies and equipment from previous years. Commissioner Viegbesie explained the town of Greensboro wants acquisition of County property that is outside their possession currently. Volunteers want an account of how monies were spent in regard to fire services.

Commissioner Green said his motion would be different.

Chair Holt asked for a second. Commissioner NeSmith said he would second the motion with a friendly amendment. The equipment currently was not in possession of the Town, but a volunteer group. This was not an issue between the County and Town. He asked if Commissioner Viegbesie would remove the aspect that the town would take possession of the equipment for inventory purposes.

Chair Holt said that was the purpose of asking Chief Walker to take an inventory along with getting the financial information.

Mr. Dixon said the former firemen or the new non-profit has no relationship with the County. The County has entrusted the town of Greensboro with the equipment. If the town says they do not have the equipment, there was no reason for the volunteers to have anything (equipment) that has not been assigned by the town.

Commissioner NeSmith said he would withdraw his second pending further clarification.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO TABLE UNTIL THEY RECEIVE THE PROPER DOCUMENTATION AND INVENTORY OF EQUIPMENT AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER NESMITH HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner NeSmith asked what position this puts the town in as far as rebuilding. Mr. Dixon said coverage would continue.

Chair Holt asked for time certain. Commissioner Viegbesie said the first meeting in December.

Commissioner Hinson said he was trying to appease everyone. During the winter months they have an influx of house fires and did not want to delay the progress. He added they could not micro-manage departments. They did not need to postpone this matter for two weeks. There was no way to placate or appease everyone. They should either fund the volunteers or the town of Greensboro and they needed to make that decision tonight.

Chair Holt called for the vote and stated they did not decide on a time certain.

COMMISSIONER GREEN AMENDED HIS MOTION AND SAID TWO WEEKS AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AMENDED HIS SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED BY VOICE VOTE 3-2. COMMISSIONER NESMITH AND COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED

11. Approval of the Chattahoochee Fire Department's Interlocal Fire and Rescue Service Agreement

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for board approval of the inter-local fire and rescue service agreement between Gadsden County and the Chattahoochee fire department for one year. He added the city of Chattahoochee decided to operate their own single engine and chose not to use an engine funded and supplied by the county. Staff is recommending to pay \$16,468.75 to compensate the city for using their own fire engine and services. The additional funding is for the next five years or until a longer-term agreement is reached.

Commissioner Hinson asked how long and Chair Holt said the agreement was for 1 year and the additional funding was for the next five years because they were not using a County truck, they were using their own truck.

Mr. Dixon said he met with the Mayor and Chief and the county was diligent about their position. He added they hoped to move the system to a fire rescue where there is a certified fireman and paramedic housed around the County to get the truck to the fire faster.

Commissioner Hinson asked how much it cost to lease to own the truck, was that option available?

Commissioner Green stepped out at 7:53 p.m.

Chair Holt said if fire stations decide to do this again, they buy it, they keep as theirs. Commissioner Hinson asked what the \$150,000 was for and Chair Holt said that was what she was talking about.

Mr. Dixon said a lot of that thinking came from this body otherwise it would have been dead in be water.

Chair Holt said when she sees things like this and so many things like this go on, if you have any doubt, you solve that problem. If you want to buy the truck, it's yours, do not come to the County. This is a solution to this.

Commissioner Hinson asked if the city of Chattahoochee agreed to this and was told yes.

Commissioner Viegbesie said Commissioner Hinson addressed one of his questions. The other is how will this have any service impact to the citizens of the County.

Commissioner Green returned at 7:56 p.m.

Mr. Dixon said there should be no drop of service. Commissioner Viegbesie said if so, will there be a fiscal impact.

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

12. Emergency Repairs Bid Package #2 Cane Creek Bid Award

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was for Board approval to award the bid of the emergency repairs bid package #2 Cane Creek Road project to Pyramid Excavation in the amount of \$136,800.

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

Commissioner NeSmith asked if there were any fiscal impact to the County. Mr. Dixon responded it was a reimbursement package so the County pays and would get reimbursed by FEMA. Commissioner NeSmith asked if would be reimbursed every dime and Mr. Dixon assured him every dime would be reimbursed.

THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

13. CR 268 (Hardaway Highway) SCOP Agreement

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for board approval of the FDOT SCOP agreement for the design of CR 268 (Hardaway highway) resurfacing project.

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

14. CR 65 (Attapulugus Highway) SCOP Agreement

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was for board approval of the FDOT SCOP agreement for the design of CR 65 (Attapulgus Highway) resurfacing project.

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

15. Contract with I.F.W. Security, LLC to Provide Security Services at the Butler Building and Gadsden County Public Library in Quincy, FL

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was for board approval to extend the contract with I. F. W. Security LLC for Security Services at the Butler building and the Bill McGill Library.

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

16. FCI Broadband Service Agreement

Tabled

17. Presentation and Approval of the County Administrator’s Performance Evaluation

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and asked Lonyell Butler, HR manager, to step forward.

Commissioner V stepped out at 8:00 pm

Lonyell Butler appeared before the Board. She explained this item was for board approval of the County Administrator’s annual evaluation.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER GREEN AND SECOND BY CHAIR HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

18. Re Allocation of Funds for the Gadsden County American Rescue Plan Programming

Tabled

18a. Gadsden County Participation

Mr. Knowles introduced the above item and stated it was for approval and authorization for Gadsden County to participate in the Attorney General’s class action opioid litigation.

Commissioner V returned at 8:03 PM

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

CLERK OF COURT

19. Updates

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

20. Updates

The Administrator said they were quickly coming to an end of some of the construction projects and repairs to the buildings. He added they would need to be looking at space issues.

Commissioner Viegbesie said there was a conversation dealing with the Conflict with Innovative and Policy conference in Okaloosa County, which is to start on the 19th. He wanted to verify that the meeting on the 16th would not conflict with the conference. Chair Holt said they have issues to take care of on the legislative side because if they were fortunate enough to get that infrastructure money, they need to work them hard.

Commissioner Green said the documents state the 16th. Chair Holt says the commissioners may be able to call in to the meeting should they need to.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

21. Updates

Mr. Knowles said they received an email from the Sheriff's Department requesting to be heard on the next agenda regarding budget/funds they did not receive. He said they need to send documents to him regarding funding.

They will need to pass a charter referendum if they want to take over annexing within the County.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he emailed to the attorney dates with regards to a deposition. Mr. Knowles said they want a specific order and on the same date in person. It may be difficult for commissioners to be in person on the same day for depositions but his office is communicating with opposing counsel regarding scheduling. Chair Holt said she let his office know dates that she was open.

Chair Holt said regarding annexation, if a town annexes out from their area, there are certain things they should look at and compactness was one. They should be asked to accept the roads and there were concerns with that. The fight becomes who was going to be responsible for the roads. When citizens here they are being annexed in, they think the roads are going also. When the area is annexed out, there is a lot of traffic for that area and the traffic on that road becomes a County problem with turning lanes, etc.

Chair Holt then mentioned the Munroe (school) traffic issue. She said for th the Administrator to talk to the Sheriff regarding flashing signs/lights. She said the problem was not just the traffic; they did not put school signs out there either. Now the signs need to be put up. She said those at FDOT are going to hurry and do the study. Traffic was still traveling 70 mph due and can do so due to no signs.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if the State required a traffic study. Chair Holt said yes.

Mr. Dixon said FDOT did not want to slow traffic down.

Commissioner Viegbesie mentioned CRPTA. He said if it did not come through CRPTA, then FDOT would not hear much. He added that a representative was needed.

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

22. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson said with regards to the bulky items pickup, he received notification regarding it on October 22 and District one pickup was from October 18th through the 21st. He asked to have District 1 on the tail end so citizens could know.

Public Works

He noticed in the past they were on a 4-day work week, that on the 5th day they were able to get more done. In the past they worked four 10-hour days instead of 8 hours. But we need them on Fridays. He asked Mr. Dixon to look into that.

He then thanked everyone for celebrating breast cancer awareness month.

Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, District 3

Commissioner NeSmith wanted to make sure Commissioner Hinson did not forget to honor Drum major Rittman. Commissioner Hinson stated he was waiting until after Homecoming and the Classic. Mr. Dixon said they were in communication with him.

Regarding Trunk-or-treat, he gave a big thank you and added it was outstanding.

County Administrator Performance Review

He encouraged the Commissioners to meet with the County Administrator so they could go through the evaluation.

He asked to schedule a workshop for goals and objectives and wanted the list of expectations as soon as possible.

Chair Holt added they should meet with the Administrator before meetings and that would be a good time to go over the goals and objectives.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5

Commissioner Green asked if the County Administrator has been able to send someone to Jim Williams Road as requested earlier. Mr. Dixon said yes and they were working on it.

On Old Federal Road, cars that have been towed and placed on property. Mr. Dixon said all of a sudden there was a car cemetery. He added they have dispatched Code Enforcement and put proper notices out and started a timetable. He added they had to move within that timetable.

He then said it had been mentioned before about a workshop with Sonya Burns regarding (SHIP) housing and available funds. He wanted citizens to hear how they could qualify for assistance and help.

Gadsden County ARRP funds

He said he did not want to prolong it when there was a need but wanted to make sure funds were distributed appropriately, including the nonprofits.

He said November 15-18th would be the bulky litter and pickup dates up for District 5.

He then wished a happy birthday to all that was celebrating birthdays in November.

Commissioner Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, District 2

Commissioner Viegbesie said all of the concerns have been expressed. He thanked the board for their letter of support for his FAC position. He requested to leverage the board’s assistance in the endeavor and asked they approve to use the assets of the County, such as emails/constant contact for his campaign of VP and he was asking to use assets, not monetary. Commissioner Hinson said he was favored to be the second vice president for the group. He did not feel he had the Board’s support and decided to not run as Commissioner Viegbesie was.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION FOR THE BOARD TO SUPPORT AND GIVE ASSISTANCE AND NONMONETARY ASSETS FOR HIS BID FOR A SECOND VP POSITION AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS MOTION.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Chair Holt stated they need to complete the Stevens school project.

She asked Mr. Knowles to define how his pay worked with invoices, retainer, charges. She said she was questioned about ETA times of fire trucks arriving at fires.

She has had a request for speed bumps. There has also been a request for lighting. Mr. Dixon says Commissioner Green brought it up last year and has taken them to now to have meaningful discussions. He said that solar changes things and will be bringing a plan soon regarding lighting.

Commissioner Viegbesie said St. Hebron security lights were solar. That could be the direction the County goes in the darker areas of the County.

She said with the information Integrity was collecting, she would like to see a checkoff sheet for the County, citizen, and a date and they will then all have the same information.

She then asked for Proclamation for Arrie Battles.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
November 2, 2021 – Regular Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:54 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

ANTHONY VIEGBESIE, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, CLERK