

AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON NOVEMBER 29, 2021 AT 6:00
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

Present: Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, Chair, District 2
Ronterious "Ron" Green, Vice Chair, District 5
Eric Hinson, District 1
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
Brenda Holt, District 4
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 Viegbesie welcomed everyone to the Special Meeting and called it to Order at 6:05 p.m. and asked everyone to bow their head for prayer. He then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

Amendments and Approval of Agenda

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD (3-Minute Limit)

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 29, 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.

Chair Viegbesie asked Commissioner Hinson to read aloud the above statement and he did so.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. Public Hearing-Approval of Resolution 2021-043 Budget Amendments for FY 2021

Ms. Daniels said, in the absence of the County Administrator, they have one public hearing to amend the 2021 budget and two General Business items, approval of Resolution 2021-039 to approve the grant budget amendments and an item for the Re-Allocation of Funds for the Gadsden County American Rescue Plan Program to be approved.

Commissioner Green asked if they were still going to discuss Item 3 due to the fact it will be workshopped?

Commissioner Hinson said he had a suggestion.

Chair Viegbesie said after the approval of the Agenda was when his eye ran and a question came to his mind before the approval of the Agenda. When they get there, they will have to, procedurally, table it and then asked the Attorney.

Mr. Knowles said go to the item and if it was the Board's will to vote on it, they could vote on it or if Board's will, they could table it; just vote it up or down either way.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if they were still on the public hearing and Chair Viegbesie said the Assistant County Administrator was about to discuss.

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

Ms. Daniels introduced the above item and said it was for approval of Resolution 2021-043 and authorization for the County Administrator, Assistant County Administrator and Finance Director to complete and execute all budget amendments necessary to maintain a balanced budget for fiscal year 2021 BOCC budget. She said staff recommended approval of the Resolution to complete and execute all budget amendments.

Chair Viegbesie announced this was public hearing and asked if there was anyone that wished to speak and there was no-one.

Ms. Daniels read aloud the Resolution.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND FOR DISCUSSION. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner Hinson had a question about 2021-45 budget amendment for the setup financing for new equipment. Ms. Daniels said this was officially setting up of the budget and the funding source.

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

GENERAL BUSINESS

2. Approval of Resolution 2021-039 Grant Budget Amendment for FY 2021

Ms. Daniels introduced the above item and said this was a Resolution to amend the grant budget for the Supervisor of Elections and did not require a public hearing.

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

3. Re-Allocation of fines for the Gadsden County American Rescue Plan (GCARP) Program

Ms. Daniels introduced the above item and said it was for approval to re-allocate funds from the Gadsden County American Rescue Plan Program.

Commissioner Holt felt they needed to order at least one ambulance.

Commissioner Hinson said booster shots were coming out and now there is a new variant out. He believed they need to set aside funding for this.

Commissioner Green said his comment was about the ambulances. Ms. Daniels said because of the nature of the item, leasing was not a good option because of the mileage put on the ambulances.

Chair Viegbesie said a comparison was done and they were much better off with a purchase. He said he would entertain a motion to table this.

Commissioner Holt said felt needed to go ahead and order the ambulances and pay the Sheriff the \$9,000.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO ORDER THE AMBULANCE AND PAY THE SHERIFF AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND FOR DISCUSSION.

Chair Viegbesie said for them to also understand, they have those with medical issues, what was better for Gadsden County as a whole and not what was good for an individual. He said when 911 was called and an ambulance does not show, they will come to the meeting saying they did not send an ambulance.

Commissioner NeSmith wanted to concur with Commissioner Holt.

Commissioner Hinson asked how many has been purchased within a year and Ms. Daniels said they purchased two with CARES Act funding and about 5 years ago, purchased 4. Commissioner Hinson wanted people to know this Board was very responsible. He asked how much they had in General Fund today. Ms. Daniels said somewhere around \$23 Million. Ms. Daniels said in the General Fund felt was less than \$5 Million. In his opinion, have \$3 Million more in the General Fund than State requires. He said he was in support of this and was a big proponent of infrastructure.

Chair Viegbesie said they have \$5,466,689 in General Fund; unassigned was \$3,584,011; assigned funding was something that was restricted and could not be touched and have \$1,882,678.

Commissioner Hinson said they have close to \$3 Million they could use. He was willing to purchase two ambulances with General Fund and was willing to be bold.

Chair Viegbesie asked if he was asking for a friendly amendment. Commissioner Hinson said he was asking for the Sheriff to be paid the \$9,000 and for two ambulances to be purchased with funds from the General Fund. Chair Viegbesie said the motion was for the purchase to come from American Rescue Plan and his request was from General Fund.

Commissioner Hinson said the friendly amendment was to purchase two ambulances from General Fund and to pay the Sheriff the \$9,000 from the American Rescue Fund and then could have a workshop on the other.

Chair Viegbesie said Commissioner Holt made the motion, was she accepting the amendment?

She said she could not accept the friendly amendment because that would have to come from General Funds and this would come from the American Rescue money. She said if they were going to do a workshop, they could bring this up at that time.

Commissioner NeSmith asked him to repeat the Motion.

COMMISSIONER HOLT SAID HER MOTION WAS TO PAY THE SHERIFF \$9,000 AND PURCHASE ONE AMBULANCE WITH AMERICAN RESCUE MONEY. COMMISSIONER NESMITH SAID HE WOULD SECOND THAT AND COMMISSIONER HOLT STATED CHAIR VIEGBESIE ALREADY MADE THE SECOND EARLIER. CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

Ms. Daniels asked if she could make a recommendation they move money from Churches and Religious Organizations Assistance funding because that was where the largest amount of money was. She wanted to move from there and put in the proper place to pay.

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

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE SPECIAL MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:43 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**ANTHONY VIEGBESIE, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk