

AT AN AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN WORKSHOP OF THE
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND
FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JANUARY 18,
2022 AT 5:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS
HAD, VIZ:

Present: Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, Vice Chair, District 2
Ronterious "Ron" Green, District 5
Eric Hinson, District 1
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
Brenda Holt, Chair, 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 workshop.

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@gadسدencountyfl.gov until noon on January 18, 2022. 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.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Discussion Regarding the Re-Allocation of Funds for the Gadsden County American Rescue Plan (GCARP) Program

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was presented for discussion regarding the re-allocation of funds for the Gadsden County American Rescue Plan Program. He said they have paid out a number of businesses already for small business assistance, resident assistance, food card, churches and religious organizations, non-profit, non-profit healthcare, and direct funding. He said what they had remaining was a total of \$776,100.00. Subsequently in meetings they have voted to approve a purchase of a single ambulance in the amount of \$255,000 and to reimburse the sheriff's office for \$9000 for security detail provided at the GCARP Resident Assistance Food Card event. He said they were asking the Board to fund \$260,000 to the GCAARP Small Businesses Assistance Program for applications that are currently in the GCAARP portal and under GCARP team review; \$252,100 that is for discussion.

Chair Viegbesie clarified Staff was asking to shift \$260,000 to the GCARP Small Businesses Assistance Program for applications currently in the portal and under team review; shift \$255,000 to Emergency Medical Services to purchase an ALS ambulance; shift \$252,100 to Emergency Medical Services to purchase an additional ambulance; and reimburse \$9,000 to the

Gadsden County Sheriff's Office for security detail provided at the food card event. And he then asked what the remaining balance would be and Mr. Dixon replied zero.

Commissioner Green said his first question was the \$260,000 for the and Small Business Program, would that cover all applicants. Mr. Dixon said that would cover the subsequent applicants that were found to be qualified to receive funding. Commissioner Green said he also knew the importance of having the second service vehicle as well.

Commissioner Holt said the \$260,000 once already set aside and Mr. Dixon said \$255,000 would cover the first ambulance and the \$252,100 would cover the second ambulance if they decide to do that.

Chair Viegbesie said they have already approved spending of \$9,000 for the Sheriff and \$255,000 for the ambulance.

Mr. Dixon said they have already identified businesses to receive the \$260,000.

Commissioner Green said in recognition to what Commissioner Holt said for businesses, would the portal have to be opened back up? Will the County have to pay Integrity? Mr. Dixon said Integrity got paid whether they do lot of work or little work.

Chair Viegbesie said if they decide to put \$140,000 into additional small businesses, how would the ones that would qualify be determined?

A spokesperson for the Integrity Group appeared at the podium said Fredericka Hamilton was on Zoom and wanted to be recognized.

Fredericka Hamilton, Project Manager for Integrity Group, appeared via Zoom and wanted to add that the \$260,000 that was discussed for the small businesses was for the 26 small businesses and there are 28 Small Businesses that should have \$280,000 allocated that were approved and were recommended for funding and each business would receive between \$8,000-\$12,000 depending on their documentation.

Chair Viegbesie said his understanding was, if they were looking at \$280,000, may be \$20,000 to come from the \$140,000 to leave \$120,000.

NeSmith said was in-line with closing comments from previous workshop-think that now have better direction to go in, start planning now and if need to allocate funds, we could develop plan for long range

Commissioner Green said it seemed they all were on the same page in reference to approving the allocations and was this the same \$140,000 that commissioner Hinson mentioned for the homeless?

Commissioner NeSmith said Commissioner Green brought up an excellent thought. They need to come up with a plan.

Commissioner Holt said they need to approve and set aside the \$120,000 for discussion later.

Commissioner Holt said her desire was an and for more funding for small business.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED
AT 5:37 P.M.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk