

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON AUGUST 16, 2022, THE
FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Ronterious "Ron" Green, Chair, District 5
Kimblin NeSmith, Vice-Chair, District 3
Eric Hinson, District 1
Jeffery Moore, District 2
Brenda Holt, District 4
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk
Crystal Jimenez, Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Green called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., Pastor Demetrius L. Burkes of Greater Bethel Missionary Baptist Church of Chattahoochee gave the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ms. Elaina Torres.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Dixon said he had two amendments; the first was under General Business as Item 8a-Approval of Health Insurance and under Presentations the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority was present.

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

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

1. Proclamation Honoring We Care Network

Mr. Dixon read aloud the Proclamation and it was presented to We Care and they said a few words.

1a. Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

Cassundra L. Thomas appeared before the board on behalf of the sorority to introduce themselves and inform the Board what they do in the community. They would like to be able to continue their efforts and was requesting \$20,000 in Gadsden County Grant Funds.

CONSENT

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER NESMITH, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE COMSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

2. Ratification Memo

3. Approval of Minutes

- July 16, 2022-Economic Development Workshop

4. Approval for Adopt-A-Road Agreement with Atkins Family for County Road 159 Salem Road

5. Approval of SHIP/ER Liens and Contracts

6. **Approval of Satisfaction of Special Assessment Lien**
7. **Approval of Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles-Memorandum of Understanding-Annual Certification Statement**

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 on January 18, 2022. Comments submitted after the deadline but prior to the meeting will be added to the official record, however the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting.

Commissioner Hinson read aloud the above statement.

Gwendolyn Simmons, 125 Jim Williams Road, Quincy, FL

Ms. Simmons appeared before the Board regarding the guardrail at Jim Williams Road and Highbridge Road. She said the guardrail has been replaced but it was a death trap. You cannot see over the rail until you are in the road. She asked the Commission to look into the guardrail and repairing it.

Mr. Dixon said they have received the email and have sent emails to FDOT and Public Works regarding the matter.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

8. Approval of Policy No. 2022-001; Proclamations, Resolutions and Ceremonial Policy

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said Commissioner NeSmith had tasked Staff to prepare a policy relating to Proclamations, Citations of Commendation, Sympathy Resolutions and Congratulatory Certificates.

COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD COMMENTS.

Commissioner Hinson said what was important in his community may not be important to their community. He said he was going to vote against this because he believed in giving Proclamations.

Chair Green said he wanted to be clear and was not sure if he had the chance to read the agenda item. They were not taking away the Proclamation, they were changing the identities and adding different and more efficient titles.

Commissioner NeSmith wanted the public to know this was to recognize in different categories. He said there were categories for different levels of service.

Chair Green said he did not want to spend a lot of time on this item as it was self-explanatory.

Commissioner Holt said categorizing this made a lot of sense. This can always be changed as it was a policy and she called the question.

CHAIR GREEN CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.

8a. Approval of Health Insurance Rates

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated this provides the Board with the proposed Health Insurance information as it relates to the County's current Health Care coverage and seeks board approval to accept the insurance committee's recommendation of remaining with the current healthcare plan under Capital Health Plan and the premium increase be absorbed by the employer. He added this recommendation also includes a change to the contribution percentage were the family tier.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH COMMENTS AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND.

Commissioner Hinson said they talked about ways to help retirees. They need to have a program to help cover costs.

Commissioner NeSmith wanted to make sure the 4% increase would be covered by the County and Mr. Dixon said yes.

CHAIR GREEN CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE OPTION ONE.

CLERK OF COURT

9. Updates

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

10. Updates

Mr. Dixon announced the budget books were ready.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

11. Updates

Mr. Knowles said they were setting the date for the second seminar.

Chair Green said he knew this was the second seminar and hoped they coming with solutions.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

12. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson thanked the students, teachers and staff and everyone that contributed to the Back-to-School supply give-away all throughout the County. He also wanted to recognize a hairstylist, Renee, for helping out. She had approximately 9 hairstylists there to do hair.

Commissioner Jeffery Moore, District 2

Commissioner Moore wanted to thank Mr. Dixon. He said there was an issue with garbage on Highway 12 for some time but he got with Public Works to get it taken care of.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt to Mr. Knowles there was discussion before about NPOs or MBO, special taxing districts, for private roads. If they go after that, there has to be a policy in place.

She said they also discussed donations to governmental entities and need a policy in place to accept that.

Temporary cutting

In the past, they have had a temporary cutting crew and may could look at bringing that back since they have the equipment.

She said they need to know whether the Sheriff has decided if they were going to rejoin CHP, if they did, it would help reduce rates.

Legal Services of North Florida

They have always supported them. They need to put more funding into that area to help with heir property.

Mr. Dixon said the biggest problem with CHP, people like going to their favorite place. Commissioner Holt said larger numbers would bring its lower rates.

She thanked the Sheriff's Department for helping out with Senior Skip Day.

Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, Vice Chair, District 3

Commissioner NeSmith said he has a meeting with the Administrator regarding the upcoming budget. He thanked Commissioner Moore in bringing attention to the blight on Highway 12 and getting it taken care of.

He sent condolences to the Roy Barnes family.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, Chair, District 5

Chair Green asked for a copy of the rules and regulations regarding code enforcement as it relates to property upkeep when the banks takeover properties. He is receiving phone calls regarding abandoned homes. He was glad to his citizens came out as it related to Joe Adams Road. He would like to look into having a 4-way stop sign placed at the intersection of Joe Adams and Jim Williams Road.

They had a great time at their Appreciation cook-out celebration.

CHAIR GREEN MADE A MOTION TO RECOGNIZE SEPTEMBER AS CHILDHOOD CANCER MONTH AND ASKED TO LIGHT THE COURTHOUSE SQUARE IN YELLOW AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

Commissioner Holt said Christmas is coming and they need new decorations for Courthouse.

Mr. Dixon said to let the Board know, have already had meetings and met with City of Quincy regarding Christmas and other events and have reached out to some professionals regarding the lighting of the whole Courthouse.

In Chair Green's "Greenlight moment" he said, "We're not given a good life or bad life, we are given a life. It's up to us to make it good or bad. How are you choosing to live?"

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:07 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**RONTERIOUS GREEN, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk