

AT A WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FL ON JANUARY 5, 2023 AT 4:00 P.M.,  
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

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

**Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Nesmith welcomed everyone to the workshop at 4:01 pm. Commissioner Hinson did the invocation. Chair Nesmith proceeded with the Pledge of Allegiance of the U.S flag.

**Amendments and Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Dixon said there were no amendments to the agenda.

**COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND CHAIR NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**Citizens Requesting to be Heard on Non Agenda Items (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](mailto:CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov) until noon on January 5, 2023. 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 the above statement.

**General Business**

1. **Presentation regarding the Gadsden County Senior Citizens Foundation**

(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator/LaToya Fryson)

Mr. Dixon said the question was if, and if so, under what circumstances, can a one-time payment be given? They looked at all the situation that were presented before them.

Commissioner Simpkins stepped out at 4:06 p.m.

He talked about the presentation. He said they are moving as if they do not have the grants and working at every end to assure that they will get the grants. In the meantime, to run the program for the next year will cost about \$475,000 over the next two years without any grant money brought forward. His first recommendation is not to do anything; they are investing a lot of money into that program. However, should the board decide to make that investment, they put before them a number of options at certain levels.

Commissioner Simpkins in at 4:08 p.m.

Commissioner Holt in at 4:08 p.m.

Mr. Dixon walked through how they laid out the program.

Homestyle cooked meals: \$175,000  
Carver Height Community Center enhancements: \$20,000  
Transportation: \$30,000  
Supplemental Utility Assistance: \$50,000

Staff recommendation contemplates a one-time payment of \$100 to 1,000 seniors to be distributed on a first come first serve basis that totals \$100,000.

Commissioner Green thanked them for the work they put into the package. He said he is puzzled, he is glad to see a long-term program, but his biggest concern would be the 1,000 people. He heard about 11,000 seniors could possibly fit in the category. He asked how will they determine who is first come first serve?

Commissioner Simpkins knows this will be done under the Gadsden County Senior Citizens foundation and asked if they have incorporated it? Mr. Dixon said yes. Commissioner Simpkins said it is not showing in the system with the Florida Division of Corporations. Mr. Dixon said they are experiencing back log, they submitted the information, but they asked him to wait. Commissioner Simpkins said she spoke to someone responsible for putting the information in. It is a concern for her that they are not incorporated yet.

Commissioner Hinson said that the County Administrator said it was incorporated and Commissioner Simpkins said it wasn't. He said Mr. Dixon just told her it was incorporated, then he said there was some difficulties. He said that gives him heartburns that the County Administrator would tell a commissioner, with authority, something that is maybe a problem.

Mr. Dixon said they submitted it about a week and a half ago. He said it was submitted electronically and he will follow up. He said they will not use it if it has not been incorporated.

Commissioner Green said even if it has not been incorporated, it should not stop them from planning. He doesn't want that to prohibit them from having the discussion.

Commissioner Holt said they must have a program. The seniors always come to them. They need to choose a good plan. To have a program in place, they can decide on what the qualifications can be. She said commissioners should never choose, there should be a system in place. It should be first come, first qualify. Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Dixon if they are pulling monies from funds that are not reoccurring? Mr. Dixon said yes. Commissioner Holt said they need to make sure they start applying now. She would love to see a building applied for Havana and Chattahoochee. She asked how do they fund some of this that may not be there later? Mr. Dixon said they are not only getting the money from the congregate living side but getting it from the home health side as well. That is a lot more of recurring monies that they have not even budgeted. The board usually puts in \$100,000 into senior programs across the county. A \$75,000 jump is not a lot, should they get the grant. Should they not get the grant, they would have to re-visit how they funded in the future in terms of recurring money. Commissioner Holt said for Medicare/Medicaid, there are some possibilities, that for every dollar they send out to Medicaid they get back \$2.49. She thinks this is way overdue.

Chair Nesmith asked if the fund is \$75,000? Mr. Dixon said yes. He asked for the allotment last year? Mr. Dixon said \$100,000 across all 4 units. Chair Nesmith asked what additional revenue did Gadsden Senior Services bring in? Mr. Dixon said congregate living and home health. Chair Nesmith asked what was the total? Mr. Dixon said \$500,000.

Commissioner Hinson said he has to see information in front of him. He said incorporation is important because if they are not incorporated, they can't receive \$10,000. Attorney Knowles said he doesn't think you can receive any money if you're not incorporated. He said the Clerk can see how much money is being distributed. He asked Attorney Knowles if non-profits can be audited and Mr. Knowles said it depends on how the money was directed to them. Commissioner Hinson said they have programs out there that can help the seniors. He said they are taking away from one non-profit and giving to another non-profit so that they can get the same people on the same board. His heart is with the senior citizens and he doesn't want them to be misled.

Commissioner Simpkins said she asked the question because she needed to know, it was not to seize the discussion. Her heart is with the seniors and she wants to make sure they are doing it correctly. She asked how will they make sure this program will jail all of the seniors in the county that is participating in the programs so that they are all receiving the services available? Mr. Dixon said enrollment is through the Gadsden Senior Services Program. Mr. Dixon said he is looking at the future view of the Foundation taking over the program.

Commissioner Holt said any organization that receives funds have to do a background check. She said non-profits can be audited. Any organization that receives public funds can be audited.

Chair Nesmith said they had this discussion and they requested that they had to have reporting.

Commissioner Green wanted to make sure they were understood. They all have seniors making choices to attend whatever center they want to attend. It is their job to make sure that every senior in this County gets the same treatment. There will be a registration process.

Chair Nesmith said any senior can call. It is not location specific. Mr. Dixon confirmed it is for any senior. It is the easiest way not to have to build a system.

Commissioner Green said this foundation will take care of what people already thought was theirs. There needs to be something under their umbrella for responsibility.

Commissioner Simpkins wanted to make sure all of the seniors have choices and be taken care of. She wants to make sure all of the seniors, it doesn't matter where, that they all receive services. She asked what is the status of Gadsden Senior Services? Mr. Dixon said it is still operating. Commissioner Simpkins asked if it will still be operating once the foundation is incorporated? He said the foundation will take over some services from Gadsden Senior Services.

Chair Nesmith said they all went door to door and were voted in and they represent the entire county. While they were presenting their resumes, they were able to interact with them. They can all agree that the seniors need resources and programs. Long-term programs are essential to the wellbeing of seniors.

Commissioner Green asked after they have the incorporation with the proper title, when will it be on the agenda? He is asking that because this is their time now to have this dialogue so they don't repeat the conversation. Mr. Dixon said they anticipate it be on the agenda this month, but it looks like it will be maybe the first meeting in February. They will know what the budget is since it will be a budget change issue if they decide on it. Commissioner Green asked this because they are workshopping and

they should get their concerns out now. Mr. Dixon said they will have the final package before that vote. Commissioner Nesmith asked, when allocations were made to Gadsden Senior Services, what reporting did they receive on a regular basis? Mr. Dixon said not much, that was part of the problem. They would put money out and there would be no response. He said Mrs. Blackshear's first year here was looking at how the money was expensed. This set up is different; the head of the non-profit is the director of Elder Affairs. They expect that there will be accountability at every level from the county to the non-profit. That surety is the reason they went with this kind of model to be sure.

Chair Nesmith confirmed every year they funded the program. He also confirmed that Carver Heights is not owned by the county. It is owned by a private community group. Commissioner Hinson confirmed it was built in 1978.

Commissioner Simpkins stepped out at 5:13 p.m.

Chair Nesmith confirmed that they just provide \$10,000 every year to the facility. Chair Nesmith said the estimate of work will be about \$20,000. Mr. Dixon said that's what they can do now. Then, they would get their permission to enter them as a part of their legislative package so they can expand and excel the building.

Commissioner Simpkins back at 5:15 p.m.

Commissioner Holt asked for information on the building in Gretna. Mr. Dixon said they met with the city managers from across the county. The City of Quincy has put up \$50,000 toward the local program in Quincy. They are encouraging every other city. Commissioner Holt suggested if they give staff assignments, they need to make sure they take these assignments seriously.

Chair Nesmith said he's excited because now they are talking about programs.

Commissioner Hinson said they have to be fair about different cities. Midway was given a bad hand.

Commissioner Simpkins said they were only funded for two years. She asked if they will be applying for the grants? Mr. Dixon said the foundation will and the county will as well. It creates the opportunity for both of them to apply. Commissioner Simpkins asked if they know where this funding will be coming from? Ms. Daniels said they would have to designate where it would come from. She asked what's the current amount? Ms. Daniels said a total of about \$100,000 and \$6,000 for liability insurance for the Quincy location.

Commissioner Green asked about Midway. He was wondering what the seniors in Midway could participate in? They need to make sure they are including them for senior services. Where do they meet and how often they are open? Ms. Fletcher said Midway was meeting with Pastor Lamb. It is a multipurpose building. They possibly have one of the churches volunteers for activities. Commissioner Hinson said they send food out to the elders that can't come. They built the extra building just for that.

Commissioner Holt said Midway was getting some funding, not Greensboro. She said they need to know what their schedules are. She said they need to see if they can get some funding themselves. She said they need to look on Google.

Commissioner Nesmith asked about homestyle cooking. Do they have programs on teaching them how to cook healthy? Mr. Dixon said they do.

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Commissioner Green wanted to make sure with the PIO if they can put the activities on website. He asked if they knew if Midway is currently active? Commissioner Hinson said yes. Mr. Dixon said the website is being developed.

Commissioner Hinson said they fund other groups and created those groups. When they reach capacity, they do what they want. It is difficult to reach them. They need to put something in writing that if they break away, the organization has to dissolve.

Commissioner Simpkins wanted to make sure they are including Midway so that they are able to sustain. Mr. Dixon said they don't anticipate to pull funding. They need to make sure they are receiving a report at least quarterly. Mr. Dixon said article stipulates that the board is created to serve the Elder Affairs program of Gadsden County.

Commissioner Holt wants to build up a lot more than they are funding them now. They can always decide not to fund any organization.

Commissioner Simpkins out at 5:47pm.

Commissioner Hinson reiterated his point on non-profits leaving the Board of County Commissioners. He said there should be a paper written up on some stipulations.

Commissioner Simpkins returned at 5:51pm.

- a. Gadsden County Senior Citizens Foundation Board Members
- b. Gadsden County Senior Citizens Foundation Articles of Incorporation

**2. Questions/Comments**

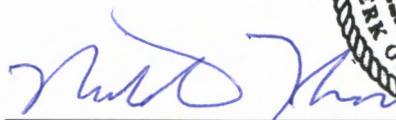
**Motion to Adjourn**

**WITH NO FURTHER DISCUSSION TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH ADJOURNED THE WORKSHOP AT 5:52 P.M.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

  
KIMBLIN NESMITH, Chair

ATTEST:



NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

