

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON MARCH 21, 2023 AT 6:00 PM,
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

Present: Kimblin NeSmith, Chair, District 3
Eric Hinson, Vice-Chair, District 1
Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2
Brenda Holt, District 4
Ronterious “Ron” Green, District 5
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk
Adriana Quijada, Clerk Secretary to the Boards

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Nesmith called the meeting to order. Commissioner Green provided the invocation then led into the Pledge of Allegiance to the US Flag.

Amendments and Approval of Agenda

Mr. Dixon added Item 4A Approval of Lease with Senator Simon and Item 4B Approval of Letters of Support for broadband for internet providers seeking funding from Department of Economic Opportunity to consent agenda.

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

Awards, Presentations and Appearances

CONSENT

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

1. **Ratification Memo**
2. **BOCC Meeting/Workshop Minutes:**
 - a. February 9, 2023 Workshop
 - b. February 20, 2023 Special Meeting
 - c. February 22, 2023 Workshop
 - d. March 7, 2023 BOCC Meeting
3. **Approval of Johnson Controls Suppression Gas Systems Deficiencies Proposal**

4. **Approval of Resolution 2023-11 and the State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program (SHIP) Local Housing Assistance Plan FY(s) 2023-2024, 2024-2025 and 2025-2026**

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

The Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners welcomes and encourages public participation at all meetings of the Board. Citizens are free to speak for up to three (3) minutes on non-agenda items. Public comments and participation are also encouraged for items on the agenda. Additionally, if you are unable to attend a meeting in person, comments from the Public can also be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.org until noon on the date of the meeting. 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. Citizens are further encouraged to participate via Zoom using the credentials on the County's website. The Board's meetings are also broadcast live on the Board's Facebook page.

Chair Nesmith read aloud the above statement.

James Hatton, 170 Tara Way Havana FL, 32333

Mr. Hatton appeared before the board to discuss educating the community regarding prevention and sustaining natural medicine to a high scale.

_Sherri Taylor, 217 W Clark Street Quincy, FL

Ms. Taylor appeared before the board asking for funding for the Gadsden Wellness Center. She stated she did not see it as competition in regards to getting funding. She saw it as a way to put out the best possible program for their seniors. She stated not one penny that would hopefully be allocated tonight would go towards anyone's salary or utility bill. She stated she would love to upgrade the computer center.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

5. **Approval of Funding for the Gadsden Wellness Center-Our Future Inc.**

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. He stated it was seeking the Board's approval for funding of the Gadsden Wellness Center. It is a nonprofit that provides senior services. They were recipients of the contract taken back from GSS. This nonprofit had come before the board twice asking for funding. Mr. Dixon stated it has been the Administrator's position that the competition in seeking the funds was a matter they should address.

Commissioner Green stated he had an opportunity to visit the location a couple of times and the hot meals were great, as well as the energy.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE THE SECOND. THERE WAS DISCUSSION.

Commissioner Holt stated she was not opposed to seniors getting services, she was opposed to the process. She stated when it was created, it was created incorrectly. The other funds could have been applied for other than the ones that were taken from the Senior Citizen Center. She stated all nonprofits can apply for other programs, and it was not necessarily the only place where they could have gotten funds. The Board decided to set up a foundation in order for the Board to have an umbrella over all of the Senior Citizens Programs, and that was what they needed to stick with. That way they did not have citizens protesting and competing for funds against each other. If they are going to do this, they needed to look at what they were going to do with the foundation. Commissioner Holt stated she liked the building, but had a problem with the process. She stated the senior citizens deserved a better opportunity to have a say so in the \$87,000 being moved. If they were willing to sign an agreement saying that they would not compete against the County Commission or the Board for any funds, then that made more sense.

Commissioner Hinson stated he believed in public/private partnership. He stated number 11 pretty much highlighted exactly what Commissioner Holt was saying to him. He stated what she was talking about was in the clause. The non-compete clause states where non-profits who received any type of funding from the Gadsden County BOCC agree not to compete against the County when applying for any local state, federal foundation, private or other grants or funding as it related to senior services. He stated they could expand their capacity working with the public and nonprofits. He said they should exclude number 11 because they would open a can of worms.

Commissioner Green stated that he did look at the agenda item and saw all the agenda qualifications. He stated he disagreed with Commissioner Hinson due to the fact that it was something standard and needed to go across the board to all nonprofits. He stated there should be a collaboration between the centers as it related to the fundings out there to ensure they would not be going after the same money. He wanted to be able to make sure they get the money they need. Commissioner Green stated he did not agree with the process 100%, however, it has been done.

Chairman Nesmith said he visited the facility and was blown away and proud. He stated his position is not going to change from what he had originally stated. His position is that they need to develop a process because the key to maintaining a great program that had already been started is sustainability. He stated the Wellness Center was doing phenomenal work, but a

process allows them to receive a proposal that stated all the information and issues that were being addressed. The sustainability piece is very important because they do not want the program to start receiving funding for a number of months, then have to go back in a few months or the next year.

Commissioner Simpkins stated that the seniors that attend the wellness centers are residents and tax payers. She stated what they should be saying is how can their newly developed elderly care department work with the wellness center. When they give funds, there should be scope of service. If Ms. Taylor was willing to work with the county's Department of Elderly Affairs for her to see that those deliverables were being met with those funds that the county had provided, then there should not be a problem. She stated she was all for accountability with taxpayers' money. That is where the Director of Elderly Affairs comes in, and looking and making sure that those deliverables were being met.

Commissioner Holt asked if there is a letter of agreement stating that the Wellness Center will withdraw its bid for funds. Mr. Dixon stated not to his knowledge.

Ms. Taylor stated she had not signed the letter. She asked how would she know what they apply for and if there was a listing of grants that they were applying for so that she did not cross over and apply for those grants. She asked if the county is qualified to apply for a grant like the OAA Grant. She stated she knows that they were formulating a nonprofit under their organization but does that make them qualified or not qualified because they are still the government. She asked if she was competing with the county or another nonprofit because only nonprofits could apply for the OAA. She stated she did intend to apply for the OAA because she did not think the county could.

Commissioner Holt stated that was something to be worked out before the vote. If they are going to give the money then they must withdraw. If they are not going to give the money, then apply. It would have to be one or the other. She asked if they do receive funding, were they going to give the money back to the county. If they apply and get funding, give the \$45,000 back.

Chairman Nesmith asked Ms. Taylor if she had met with the County Administrator to discuss ways they could work together and get her questions answered. Ms. Taylor answered no. She wanted to know how not to compete with them.

Commissioner Hinson stated for proper protocol, no one should address a single commissioner, they need to address the Chairman. He asked if they were a 501c3 yet, which Mr. Dixon answered no. Commissioner Hinson stated it would sometimes take 6 months to a year to get the 501c3 status. So, if Ms. Taylor filed that, that means they could exclude her and someone

else in the community could apply for it. He stated he did not want to stop it because he loved helping seniors.

Commissioner Holt stated it had not been settled by the Board as to how that would work as far as the withdrawal, there was no withdrawal letter. She stated if they were going to follow this, will funds be returned. It had not been discussed. If they were going to get the funds, which was fine if that was what Ms. Taylor was wanting to do, but if the Wellness Center got the funds, and they got the same funds that the Board was applying for, will the \$45,000 be given back? Those were the things that concerned her.

Commissioner Green stated Chairman Nesmith made a great comment asking Ms. Taylor if she had met with the County Administrator. He stated they need to move forward and restate the motion. He stated there should be a complete understanding from both ends on what this means. Commissioner Green stated the motion should be that the funds should not be distributed until there is an agreement from both parties. He would like for them to move forward, and he would like the funds not to be distributed until there was an agreement with the County and the Wellness Center.

Mr. Dixon stated they need to add a claw back clause into the document.

Commissioner Hinson stated number 12 stated the agreement shall not be amended or extend itself in writing signed by both parties. So, when she agreed to that, no matter what happened after that, she could not apply for anything.

Chairman Nesmith stated his position is still the same. He stated they had a request for funds, but they had not worked out the process yet, which is why they had these kinds of issues. If they had a process, they would not have these types of discussions.

Commissioner Simpkins stated this was not the first time they had this discussion and there was a workshop on this. She stated they should have made sure all concerns were addressed to the County Administrator beforehand. She stated to go ahead and put it into a vote if Ms. Taylor is fine with the contract.

CHAIRMAN NESMITH CALLED FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER GREEN	YES
COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	NO
CHAIRMAN NESMITH	NO

MOTION PASSED 3-2

6. Approval and Award of RFP 23-03 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Mr. Dixon presented the above item.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND.

Commissioner Simpkins stated this particular grant is \$750,000, and they were spending \$102,000 to administer the grant. She stated they need to utilize what they have in house. She stated they were spending over 10% of the grant. That was quite a bit to be paying on a \$750,000 grant. She stated they could use some of that funding to go towards the services for the citizens versus giving it out to a consulting firm. She stated they need to take a look at how much they were spending for someone to administer. She wanted to believe they had staff in house that could administer. If not, then it may be cheaper for them to do an OPS. They do not have to pay \$102,00 to administer.

Mr. Dixon stated those grants require certain backgrounds and certain qualifications. He stated they did not have those type of qualifications in the house.

Mr. Stiell appeared before the board and stated they were approaching budget season and to keep that in mind as they move forward. Since there was so much required for that one particular grant, staff would not be able to adequately provide all the data and meet all the requirements. He stated that was only one grant of several that the housing department had. They don't want to lose money, so the best course of action would be either to hire a Grant Administrator, which they had received applicants for, however, none were appropriate for the position. Or, to reach out to a third-party consultant to administer the grant.

Commissioner Green asked about the grant writer positions, so that they could have someone that could be in the house. He stated they may want to reconsider the advertising for a grant writer.

Mr. Dixon stated they were constantly looking for folks to fill the position. He stated that just this week they brought in 2 Code Enforcement Officers. He stated they offered someone a Grant Writer position as part time at almost \$100,000 and they said no. It was not from a lack of search, and were looking for people on a daily basis.

Commissioner Hinson stated the Board approved a Grant Writer position 2 years ago. He stated it was not just the salary they were looking at, but rather also the health insurance, retirement, etc. He stated they need to help out people within the community not all the way in California. Commissioner Hinson stated he did not see the requirements for the position and if it was properly advertised. He stated he did not have the documentation that Commissioner Simpkins had, so he was not sure how he was able to do anything.

Commissioner Holt stated she sat on the housing board. You have to have a specialty for those areas. She stated they also need to have somewhat of that for FDOT. She stated if they wanted to have a general Grant Writer, they can check on those things but they would not be able to write all those grants and do the follow up on the grants. She stated this is something they can do on another time, they needed to vote on this item.

Commissioner Simpkins stated they were looking at the administrative services, and they were going to discuss that next week as it relates to positions. She stated they can keep the money in house, and to make sure that the staff they have there may have the expertise. She stated it does not take a rocket scientist for the Grant Writer position. She stated the \$102,000 of the \$750,000 could be used towards housing for citizens.

Commissioner Hinson stated it was only fair for the Board to look at this and make sure that each Commissioner gets that information in hand first. He would like to have the information before voting on item.

Commissioner Green stated he had an opportunity to speak with Ms. Sonya Burns over housing. He stated he was going to ask for the missing pieces or if it was completed. He wanted to know the time sensitivity because they do not want to lose the money.

Mr. Stiell appeared before the board and stated it was somewhat time sensitive.

Commissioner Green asked although the information is not there, if Mr. Stiell could give a breakdown of the information so that the Commissioners could make a sound decision.

Mr. Stiell apologized for them not receiving it in the packet. He stated attachment A should have been the award letter from DEO, received February 10th, 2023, stating that they had 45 days to respond with a signed agreement to DEO.

Commissioner Holt stated it was online and she read it, anyone could have read it. Citizens read it and called her asking when they were going to get the housing money. The Concern was were they going to send the money back? No, so let's vote.

Commissioner Simpkins stated they were not applying for the grant; they had already been awarded the grant. Her concern had been the cost for administering the grant. She wanted to make her point that \$102,000 on a \$750,000 grant was a lot and she would like to see them bring it down so that they were keeping more money in house.

Commissioner Hinson asked where was it stating the time frame, he did not have it in his book. Commissioner Green stated if he was not mistaken, Ms. Sonya Burns was responsible for actually writing or applying for the grant. It was staff that applied for the grant and got it. He

wanted to make sure that they do give proper thanks to the Housing Department for even applying for this grant.

Mr. Stiell appeared before the board and read aloud the qualifications stated on the document. Mr. Stiell stated if they start at page 11 of 90, that was the start of the RFP.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

7. **Approval of Task Order with Alday Howell Engineering, Inc. for Survey and Design of CR 274 (Ben Bostic Road-Project)**

Mr. Dixon presented the above item.

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

8. **Approval of Resolution 2023-010 Authorizing the Transfer and Accepting Title to Certain Real Property, Subject to the Conditions and Environmental Assessment Restrictions for Property Donated by the City of Quincy for the M0026 EMS Quincy Project**

Mr. Dixon presented the above item.

Attorney Knowles stated DEO contacted him and wanted to make tweaks regarding the resolution. One of the main concerns was that the county not be held to take title to the property should this property not pass environmental review. Phase 2 Environmental Inspection was a very in-depth process. They had to check with Native American tribes. If they wanted it to be approved and signed by DO, that would take more time. In the interest in time, they remove that and there were changes in the language that address not having to take titles should it not pass the 24CFR parts required to have under the HUD guidelines. In order for them to receive those grant funds, they must approve their language. It was not a substantial change to the document.

Commissioner Holt stated they need to approve something that they can see.

Attorney Knowles stated he could read what the changes were. He asked to approve the revised document.

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

9. **Approval of Funding to Partner with the City of Gretna for the May Day Celebration**

Mr. Dixon presented the above item.

Ms. Diane Forman appeared before the board regarding May Day Celebration plans. She stated the celebration would be on May 5th. They have 3 artists which would be Cupid, TK Soul, and Carly Taylor. She stated they did submit a budget to the county for \$25,000 to help with the May Day Celebration.

Commissioner Holt suggested to give the 6 towns the same amount of money. If one of the towns did not have a celebration, then the money would just stay in their account. That way when they award money, they were being fair to all the towns.

Commissioner Green asked Ms. Forman what was the overall budget for the event. Ms. Forman said they had not budgeted out everything, but they were close to \$75,000. Commissioner Green asked Mr. Dixon what they had categorized in their budget for events. Mr. Dixon stated they had enough money for all municipalities.

Commissioner Simpkins stated when they are looking at this, are they looking at special events, or the proposed budget for Bicentennial? Mr. Dixon said they are looking at the special events budget.

Commissioner Hinson stated he concurred what Holt said about giving all municipalities \$25,000. He mentioned moving money to the Havana Community Development Corporation. Commissioner Simpkins stated they had a \$200,00 budget, needed a point of clarification.

Commissioner Green stated to stick with the agenda items. He wanted to vote on this item and move on.

Commissioner Holt stated if they voted to approve \$25,00 for each town, that locked it in and it would be over.

Mr. Dixon said it was an effort to establish relationships with counties. Commissioner Nesmith stated they needed to get through the requests then come back to this. He stated now that they had established those relationships with the cities, they could go back and set up a system.

Commissioner Hinson said they should amend the whole thing, and give each municipality the \$25,000. He stated he could make a motion to approve the special events funding to partner with all the cities and towns.

Mr. Dixon stated if that would become the proposal of the board, it would require a budget amendment.

Commissioner Simpkins said she agreed with funding all municipalities, however, that would be something that they would need to bring back to the table. She stated one of the requests was

more than \$25,000 so they still would not be doing it across the board. She wanted to believe they can approve this and have the vote at the next meeting.

Commissioner Hinson stated his motion would be \$25,00 for all municipalities.

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

10. Approval of Funding to Partner with the City of Greensboro for the May Day Celebration

Mr. Dixon presented the above item.

The town manager of Greensboro, Mr. Anderson, appeared before the board. He stated they were asking for \$8,000 in funding.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE \$8,000 FUNDING AND CHAIRMAN NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

11. Approval of Funding to Partner with the Town of Chattahoochee for the 4th of July Event

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. He stated they had asked for \$37,600.

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

Commissioner Green stated Lake Talquin has a celebration for 4th of July. He stated they do not get funding from the City of Quincy and wanted to know if they could get some type of stipend. He wanted to make sure they do not forget about that community as well.

12. Board Discussion and Direction regarding the Gadsden County Bicentennial Project Plan

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. He stated they wanted to get time frames for a Workshop so that they could go more in depth. They were looking at beginning the celebrations in June and taking them out through the summer into fall.

Commissioner Holt stated if they were looking at a kickstart in June, they need to start as soon as possible.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she would like to see community members to volunteer to assist with the planning. She stated she would like for them to reach out to community members.

Commissioner Hinson stated they could put funding to help the nonprofit out. He stated the staff did not have to be there and they could be finding money on infrastructure projects. Chairman Nesmith stated to schedule the workshop and invite those nonprofits.

Commissioner Green stated Commissioner Hinson made a great point, but it should have been done last year. He stated they were already in 2023 and they were behind.

Commissioner Holt stated if they were going to do this, it would be a little too late. She stated they could work this out at a workshop.

Commissioner Hinson stated he was adamant because now is the time to get more money than ever before, they need infrastructure in Gadsden County. He stated affordable housing was a must right now.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she agreed with Commissioner Hinson. She stated it would be a matter of deciding what event they would be a part of, and they need to look at the calendar for the different municipalities.

Mr. Dixon mentioned the outline to identify contacts in communities. He stated a rounded proposal was given of things they thought that needed to be happening and an idea of when they could happen. He stated they can skip months, and all the options are available.

Chairman Nesmith stated they have a Strategic Planning Workshop next week on the 11th. He asked Mr. Dixon to have a date for their Bicentennial Workshop.

CLERK OF COURT

13. Updates

Nothing to report.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

14. Updates

Mr. Dixon requested a proclamation for National Library Week to be presented at the April 18th Meeting.

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

Mr. Dixon stated they have upcoming Rural County days on April 25th. World County Day would be at the capitol on April 26th. He stated they would be starting the Relay for Life event at the track on April 28th.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

15. Updates

Attorney Knowles stated there was a change in their statute regarding advertisement. He stated they had a meeting recently canceled because of it not being advertised. He read aloud Florida Statute 50. 0311.

Commissioner Holt stated there was a time change for one of the meetings, it was at 11AM. She stated if they strayed away from the two Tuesdays, they would end up with a big problem.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

16. Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2

Commissioner Simpkins stated there is a form of professionalism that they want to display, but she also wanted to make sure that they were not so worried about people from other counties and how they look to them. They needed to make sure they were making the right decisions for their citizens here. If that would require additional discussion, then let it happen. She stated she had not seen any updates to their website. There needed to be a deadline of when Granicus was going to deliver services. Commissioner Simpkins stated that by the next meeting, they should know what was going on with the website. Mr. Dixon stated there would be an update on this by tomorrow. Commissioner Simpkins mentioned Point Milligan Road, there was trash that had been there for a couple of months now and she was requesting it to be picked up. She also requested a flyer to let her constituents know of pick-up dates in her district.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Dixon if he still had their department heads do their practice delivery, she stated they used to do that during the workshops. Mr. Dixon stated they had not done that ever since they canceled their everyday workshops. She stated it was great when they did that and it would come with some good information. She wanted to thank the work done for Ben Bostick Road. She also stated that they need a workshop for the hospital contract since they were getting into hurricane season. They must have a discussion with the hospital board. She stated they had just approved a contract for funding that has a no compete clause that would never work. She stated there would need to be a form; something to sign.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5

Commissioner Green mentioned the firefighter volunteer campaign. He stated they needed to follow through with some type of planning to recruit volunteers for the fire department. He wanted to set a time to speak with Mr. Dixon about the logistics of some things that they could bring before the board so that they could have a conversation about some incentives that they could possibly give to help recruit volunteers for all of their fire stations. He stated there was a

fish fry at Lasalle Leffall, where there was a new facility. He stated there was a lot of walking back and forth from the different facilities that were on that road. He said they needed to pay some toolage to see if it was possible to get sidewalks in that area on that road for safety preventions. He also mentioned the summer youth program. He stated it was great last year and they employed about 200 of their young people. He was looking forward to it and stated they needed to start having conversations about it. Commissioner Green stated he had received a call from Tallahassee commissioners asking if there were any events on May 20th. They were trying to put together a calendar for Leon, Gadsden, and Jackson. He stated if there was anybody listening that knew of an event on May 20th, to contact him so that they could include it on the calendar. He stated he knew there was an event on May 20th in the Shiloh community from 1PM to 5PM. They will crown their oldest male and oldest female in their community. Commissioner Green stated he was a huge advocate and team member for Relay for Life. He wanted to make sure they were on board for Relay for Life; it will be on the MLK track field. He also stated that on April 26th there would be a read along at 10AM at the Quincy Library. He was honored to be one of the readers for that event. He wanted to give thanks to Public Works or whoever was responsible for striping. Commissioner Green wanted to say congrats to Coach Willie Simmons, who renewed his contract with FAMU.

Commissioner Simpkins wanted to thank Public Works facilities that played a part of the bridge dedication. Commissioner Green asked for clarity on if they had a Public Works Director. Mr. Dixon said yes, they do have a Public Works Director and his name was Curtis Young.

Commissioner Eric Hinson, Vice-Chair, District 1

Commissioner Hinson mentioned bonuses. Mr. Dixon said they were working on it and they were ready to bring before him. Commissioner Hinson also asked Mr. Dixon what was the state of the fire department in Havana. Mr. Dixon stated that Chief Hood and Andre Walker, Fire Coordinator, were meeting with volunteers and city officials to figure out what they need. Commissioner Simpkins stated to take a look at Sheriff's Department and looking at incentives where they add the Dual Certification. It would give them numbers to work towards so that they could get their ratings up.

Commissioner Hinson stated they needed to keep in mind the housing and transportation infrastructure. He stated last week the Governor appointed Freddie Figgers to be the vice chairman or chairman. His wife, Natalie Figgers, was also appointed to the FAMU Board. He stated to make sure to invite him to the table because they could not bring business if they do not talk to him anyway.

Commissioner Holt stated she would not be present on the 11th. She asked Mr. Dixon if they could get where the funds were coming from under the line items. She also stated that the requests needed to be made during the budget season.

Commissioner Hinson wanted to add Havana and Midway to the agenda item for the next meeting.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 8:51PM.

Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, Chair, District 3

Chairman Nesmith asked Angela Sapp to come forward. Commissioner Sapp appeared before the Board. Ms. Sapp stated she appreciated the protocols that took place during the meeting. She stated she looked forward to the approval of the project on Pat Thomas Parkway.

Chairman Nesmith stated that they need to get the parks ready for the summer youth program. He asked Mr. Dixon where they were with Code Enforcements. Mr. Dixon stated they hired 2 code enforcements today. Chairman Nesmith stated he had the opportunity to go to Saint John's County and network with individuals regarding their Executive Director of Economic Development position. He stated that the person that qualified for the position asked Chairman Nesmith what was the stability like with the Board. He did not apply because of the history of the Gadsden County Board.

Commissioner Hinson stated they needed to stop talking negative in the eyes of the people. He stated they should not be discussing this in an open floor because it would make it seem as if they were the people from 20 years ago.

Commissioner Simpkins gave the following quote:

“There are no secrets to success. It is a result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure. “

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:09 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

KIMBLIN NESMITH, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk