

**AT A WORKSHOP/ REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FL ON JUNE 20, 2023 AT 4:00 P.M.,
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: **Kimblin NeSmith, Chair, District 3**
 Eric Hinson, Vice-Chair, District 1, Appeared Later
 Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2
 Brenda Holt, District 4
 Ronterious “Ron” Green, District 5
 Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
 Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
 Adriana Quijada, Assistant Clerk

WORKSHOP (4:00PM)

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair NeSmith started the workshop and Invocation was done. Chair NeSmith led into the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair NeSmith asked the County Administrator if there were any amendments to the agenda.

The County Administrator stated they had a request for Proclamation regarding Bicentennial to be added as Item 15A.

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.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Review and Discuss the June 20, 2023 Regular BOCC Meeting Agenda

Mr. Dixon stated Item 8 was the approval of Lease-Purchase of two Frazer Chevy 3500 Type I Ambulances. He stated they needed to finance two new ambulance boxes to go on their chassis.

Chair NeSmith stated they had a fiscal impact of \$424,368.57.

Mr. Dixon stated one loan was coming to an end that they have out there right now. They were

looking to continue that loan at those dollars. He stated the loan was for previous ambulances.

Chair NeSmith verified with Mr. Dixon that they talked about ordering the ambulances on a certain date but they would not have to make the first payment until next year. Mr. Dixon stated 2025.

Mr. Knowles stated they could refer to page 17 of 19. There are 3 options. The longer they advertise it, the lower the interest rate.

Chief Hood stated the current lease will expire in April 2024 and the current lease amount is \$124,000.

Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Dixon for his recommendation. Mr. Dixon stated he recommended to finance it for 3 years. Commissioner Holt asked was that because they already have ARPA money? Mr. Dixon stated it was because it was already there and also it was a cash flow thing. He stated they could buy them, but it would reduce everyday cash flow. Commissioner Holt stated if they do it for five years, and did extra payment on the principle, they could run the interest down.

Commissioner Simpkins stated they wanted to make sure it was not one of those deals where they had already included the interest payment. It did not matter if you pay it off sooner, they were still going to receive that set interest amount.

Ms. Daniels stated this was not ARPA money. This was money being budgeted from the EMS fund. She stated they have to be mindful that they need to have a balanced budget. She stated in order to spend, they need to have it budgeted.

Mr. Dixon stated Item 9 seeks re-appointment to the Quincy-Gadsden Airport Authority. Mr. Ralph Higdon will serve a three-year term if he were to be reappointed. Commissioner Green asked if Mr. Higdon had been notified or was he still interested in serving in that capacity. Mr. Dixon stated he may have spoken with Mrs. Bradley.

Mr. Dixon went on to Item 10. He stated they had a decrease in the amount of \$5,230.00 for the Change Order #1 for Havana Middle School Sidewalk. He stated the same was for Item 11 except it was a decrease in the amount of \$300.00. Commissioner Green asked regarding the money that was decreased, where did it go? Mr. Dixon stated it would go back to the funder.

Mr. Dixon stated Item 12 was requested by Commissioner Simpkins. This item seeks approval of purchasing playground equipment for East Gadsden Recreation Park and Multipurpose Complex. Commissioner Green asked if they had done the cost analysis across the County? He asked how were they dividing the needs across the Board. Mr. Dixon stated they were going to bring in categories of what they could have done this summer along with the Budget that would be required. He stated they were going to bring 3 or 4 parks that they hope would get their approval to be upgraded. Commissioner Green asked if they had an idea of what the other parks are. Mr. Dixon stated St. Johns, Friendship, and Sawdust Park.

Commissioner Simpkins stated this was something she has been requesting since November. She stated there was not a park in that community. They have ARPA funds and should be able to show citizens where they have something substantial that they can show after 2025. She stated the

community deserves equipment. They need to use the ARPA funds. She stated they do need to address all communities but especially this one. Chair NeSmith asked how many county parks do they have. Curtis Young stated 12.

Commissioner Holt stated she cannot vote for parks until they could see about getting the one that she had been asking for 4 years to be looked at, which was St. Johns Park. She stated the bathroom was torn out. She said she also asked about Friendship Park. Commissioner Holt asked Commissioner Simpkins if there was a restroom there. Commissioner Simpkins stated there is a restroom but no park out there. She was not sure if there is even water running. Commissioner Holt stated for them to do an inventory to see what they need to do. She stated she cannot support anything until they get the inventory.

Commissioner Green stated they needed a report card for all of the parks. He stated they need to be categorized on a needs assessment. He stated he was disappointed that Shiloh was not in the top 3 or 4. He asked where they were with finding someone to oversee this department. Mr. Dixon stated they were developing it now. Mr. Dixon stated they hoped to do those things now for certain parks in terms of upgrades. He stated the park in Sawdust is wide open and could easily add new equipment.

Commissioner Simpkins stated it bothers her because a couple months ago they said for them to get the parks ready for the summer. She stated now they want an inventory and it would take longer to do that. When they meet again, the kids would already be almost going back to school. Commissioner Simpkins stated she did drive around to see the different parks and they do need upgrades, but they are useable. She stated there was nothing at the East Gadsden Recreation Park. She stated they were quick to do things like the Bicentennial, but when it came to having things for the community, it was a long process. It was not fair for that community to not have anything for the summer. She stated they needed to put a number out there and say they want to spend that amount on parks. They were not meeting again until August.

Commissioner Holt stated if they spur tourism, they will make money. She stated that was why they were having these events. She stated hopefully they will have some things to produce more money in those areas. She asked Mr. Dixon if the Parks have already been done, was there a dollar amount on them? If not, then they still need to say what was coming first, second, etc.

Commissioner Green wanted to make it clear to Commissioner Simpkins that he was not against that community park having equipment, but they need a needs assessment. They need to grade the other parks. He stated they need to know if certain parks need to be shut down temporarily, so that no one is injured because they do not want any other unnecessary lawsuit for things they could have prevented.

Chair NeSmith asked Mr. Dixon if they could get an assessment of all their parks. They need a chart and need to know the conditions of the parks. Mr. Dixon stated there was no budget until now for parks. It did not and still does not have a budget. He stated Commissioner Simpkins changed the trajectory of that park. He stated they will have that information for them ASAP.

Commissioner Simpkins stated it was about what the community wants. The community would like for their kids to have somewhere to play. She stated while they were waiting for the funding on the multi-purpose center, she wanted the playground area for those kids.

Mr. Dixon went on to Item 13. This item seeks Board discussion and direction of an agreement with Florida Gulf and Atlantic and Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners to reconstruct railroad crossings at Shady Rest Road and Scotland Road. He stated inside the rails, it belongs to the railroads. Outside of the rails belongs to the County or the City.

Commissioner Green asked how long were they anticipating on the wait and the research that DOT is doing. Mr. Dixon stated they will be back in touch this week. Commissioner Green asked what were they expecting from DOT. Mr. Dixon stated they were expecting some clarity on whether or not they have to reimburse them and also the level of participation in terms of whether or not they were responsible for outside of the railroad, as a fiscally restrained county. Commissioner Green asked if they should go into a whole dialogue about this without having direction from DOT. Mr. Dixon stated he would ask for the Commissioner to table this item until they get more clarity. Commissioner Green stated he was thinking the same, to wait until they give a full synopsis of it.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she was getting weekly calls about those railroad tracks. She was under the assumption they were about to get this taken care of. She asked when were they hearing from DOT and who was doing the repairs. Mr. Dixon stated inside the tracks, the railroad will do the repairs. Outside of the tracks, his understanding was that the County would be responsible. They were still trying to figure out to what degree. Commissioner Simpkins asked Mr. Dixon when was DOT going to reach out to them? Mr. Dixon stated as soon as they possibly could. He stated they spoke with DOT last week. Chairman NeSmith asked Commissioner Simpkins if the callers were saying that the railroad was impassable? Commissioner Simpkins stated the callers were saying it was affecting their tires. She stated those railroad tracks are terrible. Chairman NeSmith asked Mr. Dixon if DOT had observed the tracks. Mr. Dixon stated he was not sure if the gentleman he was speaking to had been to that area, but some representatives and the railroad track have been out there and they agreed it was in bad shape. Commissioner Simpkins asked what was DOT determining. Mr. Dixon stated they were determining who pays inside of the tracks. They know the railroad track pays, but do they have to reimburse them. He stated the County was responsible for the outside track but because they are a fiscally restrained County, how much were they responsible for that. Mr. Dixon stated when they call back, he thinks they will have those answers for him.

Commissioner Holt stated if they were fiscally restrained, would they consider applying for funding under SCRAP or SCOP.

Chairman NeSmith asked if the issue was coming from inside or outside of the track. Mr. Dixon stated the issue was coming from inside of the track. Chairman NeSmith asked how many tracks were there in Gadsden County. Mr. Dixon stated about 20 sets of tracks. Commissioner Holt stated citizens should slow down for the tracks. She stated the track in Gretna was bad.

Mr. Dixon went on to Item 14. He stated this item seeks approval of Bridge Renaming Policy. Commissioner Holt stated she thought there needed to be 2 or 3 names proposed and to also have the citizens from that road sign off. Chair NeSmith asked the County Administrator if this policy was drafted from somewhere. Mr. Knowles stated he could not find any bridge renaming policy in the state. He stated one of the things discussed while they were developing this was how would they keep a bridge from being renamed over and over. Commissioner Green asked what made him do the research. Mr. Dixon stated he had received a request. Commissioner Green asked how soon were

they looking for an answer or for this process to take place? Mr. Dixon stated as soon as the Board decides.

Commissioner Holt stated the petition process should be in place. She suggested that the policy should state that it needs to be at least 10 years before they could rename the Bridge again.

Commissioner Green asked how logical was it to allow Planning and Zoning Board to be involved in this process as well? Mr. Knowles wanted to verify with Commissioner Green if he was stating that as part of the policy, the renaming request has to go before Planning and Zoning first, then go to the Board? Commissioner Green stated yes, he thought it should.

Bishop Green appeared before the Board. He stated they should have a requirement in the renaming that the person should have some kind of meaningful contribution. He stated they did not want to name a bridge after someone who had been a terrible person.

Mr. Dixon went on to Item 15. He stated this item seeks approval of the Gadsden County Emergency Services Education Agreement. Chief Hood appeared before the Board. He stated they were asking to bring this back to them due to major amendments to it. He stated Paramedic School, EMT School, and Fire School had increased over the years. They had a \$5,000 limit for tuition reimbursement and they moved it up to \$6,000. They also moved up the years the employee has to pay back employment to the County. It was a contract for 2 years and they moved it to 3 years. He stated the surrounding counties had started to pay for the EMT, Paramedic, or Firefighters for their actual school hours. Chairman NeSmith wanted to clarify that they have budgeted \$25,000 for the education reimbursement. Chief Hood stated yes, they also have \$12,000 allocated within the fire budget for fire related education.

Commissioner Simpkins wanted to clarify that they were asking for an increase of the amount that they would reimburse for each person. Chief Hood stated correct. It was a 2-year contract and now will be a 3-year contract.

Commissioner Green stated they were asking for more, but based upon what? Chief Hood stated this agenda item was not asking for additional funding, it was just asking for them to approve the contract agreement.

2. Discussion Items by Commissioners:

Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2

Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4

Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5

Commissioner Eric F. Hinson, District 1

Chairman Kimblin E. NeSmith, J.D., District 3

Commissioner Holt stated that her comment was that they limit the amount of time they give for comments in the regular meeting. They need to say 5 or 10 minutes because they were going too late into the night. They need to make sure to vote on that tonight. Mr. Knowles stated it was currently in an ordinance, so they need to advertise the ordinance. He stated they could direct them to advertise it and bring it back to them.

Commissioner Green asked if they were pulling item 13 and 14? Mr. Dixon stated yes.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

MOTION TO ADJOURN THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH DECLARED THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED AT 5:52 P.M.

REGULAR MEETING 6:00PM

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair NeSmith started the meeting at 6:02 pm. Mr. Barkley Lewis provided invocation. Chair NeSmith led into the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair NeSmith asked Mr. Dixon if there were any amendments to the agenda.

Mr. Dixon stated they were adding Item 2A, a presentation of Bicentennial Proclamation and Item 15A, approval of Bicentennial calendar.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER GREEN, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

1. Proclamation recognizing National Homeownership Month – June 2023

Mr. Dixon presented the above Proclamation for National Homeownership Month. Chair NeSmith presented the proclamation to the Housing Department, recognizing National Homeownership Month.

2. Proclamation honoring Pretrial, Probation, and Parole Supervision Week July 16th – July 22nd

Mr. Dixon presented the above proclamation. Chair NeSmith presented the award to Ms. Rylands. Ms. Rylands thanked her Staff for their hard work.

2A. Recognition of Bostick Temple Christian Center

Commissioner Green presented the recognition of Bostick Temple Christian Center to Deacon Sanders.

CONSENT

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER GREEN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.

3. RATIFICATION MEMO

4. BOCC MEETING/ WORKSHOP MINUTES

- a. April 11th, 2023 @ 12:00pm Strategic Planning Workshop
- b. May 15, 2023 @ 5:00pm ARPA / CARES Funds Workshop
- c. May 31, 2023 @ 4:00pm Special Meeting

5. **Approval of Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles - Memorandum of Understanding - Annual Certification Statement**
(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator / Temeka L. Rollins, Probation Division Manager)
6. **Approval of the Bridging Barriers, LLC Contract**
(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator / Temeka L. Rollins, Probation Division Manager)
7. **Approval of New Road Name "Searcy Lane"**
(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator / Morris Young, Sheriff Rachel Harrison, Enhanced 911 Coordinator)

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS (3-MINUTE LIMIT)

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Mr. Dixon read aloud the above statement.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Alma Venisee, 155 Martin St. Quincy, FL

Ms. Venisee appeared before the Board. She stated the Rapid Rehousing Program was an intervention designed to help individuals and families to quickly exit homelessness, return to housing in the community, and not become homeless again in the future. She stated there was a shortage in housing in Gadsden County, and also a shortage of rental properties.

Commissioner Green and Commissioner Simpkins gave thanks to Ms. Venisee for her services.

Commissioner Hinson appeared at 6:29 pm.

Commissioner Holt stated normally they had everyone present during budget time. That way they could be funded for the next term. She stated if that was the case, if Ms. Venisee would be willing to speak with each Commissioner individually and give them more details.

GENERAL BUSINESS

8. Approval of Lease-Purchase of Two Frazer Chevy 3500 Type I Ambulances

Mr. Dixon presented Item 8. He stated they were seeking the Board's approval to finance the replacement of EMS units that have reached their end-of-life stage.

Chair NeSmith asked which route did they want to take. They have options. Commissioner Simpkins stated the first option.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER GREEN, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

9. Reappointment to the Quincy-Gadsden Airport Authority

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. This item is seeking approval to re-appoint Mr. Ralph Higdon as one of the Gadsden County representatives to the QGAA.

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

10. Havana Middle School Sidewalk – Change Order # 01

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. He stated this item seeks approval of Change Order #1 for Havana Middle School Sidewalk decrease in the amount of \$5,230.00.

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

11. Havana Middle School Sidewalk – Change Order # 02

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. He stated this item seeks approval of Change Order #02 for Havana Middle School Sidewalk decrease in the amount of \$300.00.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

12. Approval of Purchase for Playground Equipment for East Gadsden Recreation Park and Multipurpose Complex located at 2162 Fantana Trail

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. He stated it seeks approval of purchase for playground equipment for East Gadsden Recreation Park and Multipurpose Complex.

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THIS ITEM AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND; THE MOTION WAS LATER WITHDRAWN.

Commissioner Holt stated she cannot support this park until they get the inventory in. They need to look at the cost and see what they need to do.

Commissioner Green stated there was 3 quotes under this item. He asked which quote were they considering. Curtis Young appeared before the Board. He stated they were looking at Quote 3. Commissioner Green asked if they knew the timeframe for the other 2 quotes? Mr. Young stated 2 months was the timeframe. He stated Beyond Your Ordinary was a company in Jacksonville and they have the equipment installed now. They just need to decide if they want to just get the equipment or get the equipment and then install it. Commissioner Green asked if the \$64,426.00 for Quote 3 was with the installation. Mr. Young stated that was right. Commissioner Simpkins stated if they could table this to give the County Administrator time to check and see if they could get the installation at a

lower price. Chair NeSmith stated they could have a special meeting on this. Commissioner Hinson verified they have to pay \$20,000 extra for installation. He asked how soon. Mr. Young stated they have the equipment in Jacksonville; it would take 2 months to get it installed. Commissioner Hinson stated he was looking at mental health. He stated they need to do something to get kids and senior citizens moving. He stated he would prefer to wait the 2 months; timing is essential. Commissioner Holt stated she agreed with the park getting done, they just do not have a plan. Commissioner Simpkins stated she wanted to table it and give it to the County Administrator to give him time to see if he can find an installer other than the company Beyond Your Ordinary. Commissioner Hinson stated they needed to have a special meeting. Commissioner Simpkins stated yes and all agreed.

13. Discussion and Direction of Agreement between Florida, Gulf & Atlantic Railroad Construction and Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners

(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator / Curtis Young, Public Work Director)
Item pulled.

14. Direction and Approval of Policy 2023-003 – Bridge Renaming Policy

(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator / Clayton Knowles, County Attorney)
Item pulled.

15. Approval of Gadsden County Emergency Services Education Agreement

(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator/ Kris Hood, EMS Director)

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. This agenda item seeks approval of the Gadsden County Emergency Services Education Agreement.

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

15A. Approval of Bicentennial Calendar

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. It was seeking approval of the Bicentennial Calendar and items on it so they could get things moving. He stated the calendar has the work of the committee and what they perceive in terms of cost.

Commissioner Green verified if the County Administrator was asking that they accept this by way of a motion. Mr. Dixon stated yes.

Commissioner Hinson asked if they could discuss this in the special meeting. He stated this was his first time looking at this. Commissioner Green stated he was comfortable with this item because he has been involved with the process and interacting with individuals. He stated they are so behind when it comes to solidifying the type of people that they were trying to bring, they have to have things in place like 6 months ago. He stated they would not be able to solidify any of these dates until they could get some funding. He wanted to make sure to make the process easy for the Clerk as well as the County Administrator.

Commissioner Simpkins stated they should have an itemized budget for each of the events. Mr. Dixon stated that was not a problem.

Commissioner Hinson stated if a Commissioner has heartburn with an item, it was standard that they read through it first.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER GREEN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM. COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.

CLERK OF COURT

16. Updates

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

17. Updates

Mr. Dixon stated he wanted to make sure that everyone was aware that the Bicentennial kickoff was on Saturday at 10AM at the Courthouse square.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

18. Updates

Mr. Knowles stated they need to have another SHADE meeting. He stated he will get with the County Administrator to schedule it. He also wanted to state to cherish your loved ones.

Mr. Knowles requested a motion for the SHADE meeting.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS REQUEST.

19. DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

20.

Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2

Commissioner Simpkins wanted to request a Proclamation for the Bicentennial.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER GREEN, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS REQUEST.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she loved the Love Where You Live campaign. She stated it was getting a lot of traction on social media. She wanted them to keep encouraging their friends and family to love where they live. Commissioner Simpkins asked where they were with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Mr. Dixon stated they were still waiting on some Commissioners to provide representatives. Commissioner Simpkins stated Broadband was a big concern. She asked when they ask for letters of support, if they were looking to see where they were looking to provide service? Mr. Dixon stated yes, in general they will show a little bit since they consider that proprietary information. Commissioner Simpkins stated in District 2 there are areas where people can work from home, but they could not because of the lack of service.

Commissioner Simpkins stated on Saturday, there will be a Shaw Quarters Community Action Committee. They will be celebrating the senior citizens. She stated this will be held at the Washington Masonic Lodge and will take place between 2pm to 4pm.

Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt stated on July 11th, there will be a Town Hall Meeting at Gretna City Hall in Gretna. They will also have another one at St. Johns Church on the 17th. Commissioner Holt stated she would like to bring back the Ordinance on commission meetings and include time limits on comments. She stated they were running way into the night due to the comments section. Mr. Knowles stated they did not need to vote on this and he would get with the County Administrator.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5

Commissioner Green asked if they could get a list of requirements or things that are objectives to know how to find the right people for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. He stated he hoped they could get some attention to the Courthouse on painting it. Mr. Dixon stated they just applied for a Preservation Grant. Chair NeSmith asked Mr. Dixon if they are not able to just go in and paint it because it was a historical building? Mr. Dixon stated correct. Commissioner Green stated the welcome sign in Midway did not make him feel Gadsden proud. He stated it needed some attention. Ms. Steele stated she had gotten with Mr. Young and they have already spoken on this. Mr. Dixon asked if they could clean it up in the meantime. Ms. Steele stated yes.

Commissioner Green thanked Ms. Burns and Mr. Stiell for putting on a great Housing program. Commissioner Green stated he wanted an update on the Stevens School project. He was aware that they have been granted an extension on the funding piece of it. He stated the Sherriff was responsible for having conversations with some appropriate people to make sure they had that extension. Commissioner Green wanted to make a proclamation to honor their Sheriff from the Board on behalf of them.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER GREEN AND SECOND BY CHAIR NESMITH, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO HONOR THEIR SHERIFF.

Commissioner Green wanted to ask each Commissioner to make themselves available to the Boys and Girls Club. Commissioner Green stated he would like a motion for a proclamation for Bishop Elect J.D. Harris.

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

Commissioner Green stated Dr. Littles was a native to the Shiloh Community. She accomplished many great things and wanted to give her a proclamation. He wanted to asked the County Administrator to start the process of getting them some numbers of what it would take to include Dr. Littles on the mural. Commissioner Holt stated to do another one because that would attract tourists.

Commissioner Eric F. Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson wanted to thank Alpha Kappa Alpha. They had 37 small businesses show up for the Biz Crawl.

Commissioner Hinson asked Mr. Dixon what was the deal with the Summer Youth employment. He stated there was list of 60 people on a thread and an email was sent out saying they were denied getting a job. He stated it was an embarrassment that 59 other people had to see that their child did

not get a job. Mr. Dixon stated they had accepted almost over 250 kids into the program. He stated the only people who were denied were not denied because of space. They accepted every kid they thought they possibly could. He stated there were people from the program that have gone to people's houses looking for documents that were needed from them. It requires a kid and a parent to put in a little work. Commissioner Hinson stated from his understanding, all the information was sent on time and there was still no reply to the email. He stated he wanted an emergency meeting on this. The information was sent on time and there was no reply to emails. He asked Mr. Dixon about the mass email that was sent out to the 60 people who were denied. Mr. Dixon stated they sent an email out to the ones who were not eligible for the program. Commissioner Hinson asked if it was a blind copy or could everyone see who did not get accepted? Mr. Dixon stated he was not sure about that and he would have to check. Commissioner Hinson stated he will call them tomorrow morning and ask them to send him the documentation itself and he will forward it to Mr. Dixon.

Commissioner Simpkins suggested to Commissioner Hinson to ask the County Administrator to check on those individuals tomorrow with Ms. Maas and follow up with him. Commissioner Green stated they follow a process. He stated the 3 individuals he spoke with who had issues getting into the program were able to get accepted because he went behind the scenes and intervened. Commissioner Hinson stated they were talking about one or two students, but he was talking about 60 students.

Commissioner Hinson stated he wanted to thank again everyone that came out for the Biz Crawl. Commissioner Simpkins stated she wanted to thank the Sheriff's Department for their service. She stated their Officers responded well to a call on a mental health issue.

Commissioner Holt stated August 16th is the anniversary of the Lake Talquin drowning where 17 people drowned. She stated they need to put a recognition at the Blessed Hope Church and at the Lake. She also stated that when they request workshops, if they would go ahead and provide information to them for the agenda item.

Commissioner Kimblin E. Nesmith, J.D., District 3

Chair NeSmith asked the County Administrator where they were with the Website. Ms. Steele stated they gave out a report stating it would be launched in August. Chair NeSmith stated they needed to look at how they were going to move forward with all the great non-profits. They need to think about having a department or division that could assist in empowering these non-profits. Commissioner Green asked if they have filled the Grant Writer position or were they still searching? Mr. Dixon stated the position was filled. Chair NeSmith asked the County Administrator about the Stevens School. Mr. Dixon stated they were getting close to starting. Chair NeSmith stated he wanted to echo what Commissioner Hinson said earlier about losing Mrs. Figgers, who was a pillar to the community. Commissioner Hinson stated he wanted to mention someone else who has passed away, Ms. Lovett from Havana. He stated she had a great spirit and a great heart. Commissioner Green provided a green light moment.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:02 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FL

**KIMBLIN NESMITH, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk