

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY,  
FLORIDA ON AUGUST 1, 2023 AT 6:00  
P.M., 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  
Ronterius "Ron" Green, District 5  
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator  
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney  
Tammy Young, Clerk's Office  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair NeSmith welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. He asked Commissioner Green to give the Invocation and then led in Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

**Amendments and Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Dixon asked to pull items 1 & 5 and add new Item 1, Recognition of Jaylen Martin, Item 1a- Proclamation of Sheriff Morris Young under Awards, Presentations and Appearances and add items 17a and 17b under General Business.

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

**Awards, Presentations and Appearances**

~~1. Recognition of Bishop John D. Harris~~  
Pulled

1. Proclamation to Jaylen Martin  
The Proclamation for Jaylen Martin was read aloud by Chair NeSmith and it was presented to him.

1a. Proclamation to Sheriff Morris Young  
Commissioner Green read aloud the Proclamation and it was presented to Sheriff Young.

**Consent**

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

2. Ratification Memo

**3. BOCC Meeting/Workshop Minutes:**

- a. June 5, 2023 @ 4:00pm Organizational Workshop
- b. June 6, 2023 @ 4:00pm Pre-Meeting Workshop
- c. June 6, 2023 @ 6:00pm Regular Board Meeting
- d. June 20, 2023 @ 4:00pm Pre-Meeting Workshop
- e. June 22, 2023 @ 3:00pm Special Meeting

**4. Approval of Narcotics Tracking Software Agreement Between Gadsden County Emergency Services and Schedule 2 IT**

**5. Approval of Agreement with Sonitrol to upgrade the User Access to the Edward J. Butler Building**

Pulled

**6. Approval of Modification #1 to reinstate the FY 2021-22 Emergency Management Performance Agreement #G0231**

**Items Pulled for Discussion**

**Citizens Requesting to be Heard on Non-Agenda Items (3-minute limit)**

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.gov](mailto:CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov) 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. Commissioner Simpkins read the above statement aloud.

**Public Hearings**

**Chrissy Shorter Arnold, 121 James CR Quincy, FL**

Chrissy Shorter Arnold appeared before the Board to discuss two issues in this County. Number one was suicide prevention. Her second issue was financial literacy.

Commissioner Simpkins thanked Ms. Shorter and stated she would like her number. Commissioner Simpkins stated was working on something and would love for her to be apart of it.

Commissioner Hinson also thanked Ms. Shorter and stated a couple years ago he attended a suicide meeting at Florida A&M University. He stated he was not aware that there are more suicides than homicides. Ms. Shorter stated it was because they are not talking about it. Commissioner Hinson stated they have more suicides in Tallahassee than homicides. Mental health was important. Commissioner Holt stated for Ms. Shorter to get with the County Administrator.

**Janet Watson, 2793 Sycamore Road**

Janet Watson appeared before the Board. She stated she would like to give her three minutes to her husband.

**Mike Watson, 2793 Sycamore Road**

Mike Watson appeared before the Board. Mr. Watson stated Commissioner Hinson has 2 roads that are in poor shape in his district. Commissioner Simpkins has 3 roads in her district in poor condition. He stated Commissioner Holt has Ben Bostick, Jack Drive and Mount Pleasant Road that are in poor shape. He stated Commissioner Green has Casey Lane, Jim Williams Road, and Augustine Road in poor condition. He stated there are 14 roads in poor condition.

Chairman NeSmith asked the County Administrator if he knew about the list Mr. Watson was talking about. Mr. Dixon stated they will get a list for him.

**Pastor Willie Gaines, 577 Ben Bostick Road Quincy, FL**

Pastor Gaines appeared before the Board. He wanted to thank the Board and the County Administrator for the work that was going on in the Friendship Community. He stated the sidewalks were complete and they were doing the finishing work on them. They also now have speed bumps on Frank Jackson Road. He stated they were having their 3<sup>rd</sup> annual trash roundup coming up next month. He passed out a flyer to the Board. He stated it was important to keep their community clean.

Commissioner Holt stated they discussed an issue about a property in the Friendship area and she asked Pastor Gaines if he got to the right department about that issue. Pastor Gaines stated not yet, he was waiting to get more contact with Commissioner Holt to see which direction they need to go in. Commissioner Green thanked Pastor Gaines and appreciated him coming before the Board. Pastor Gaines wanted to thank the County Administrator for allowing him to have his personal phone number to make sure that whenever he had issues, he could call him.

**Linda Clemons, 621 David Clemons Road Quincy, FL**

Ms. Clemons appeared before the Board. She stated she was there for the plead of recognizing her sister who lost her life on one of the bridges in Gadsden County. She stated her name was Erlene Clemons Chandler. It was a 5-car accident on Attapulcus Creek Bridge County Road 159. Ms. Clemons stated her family was asking for them to rename that bridge in honor of her name to give them closure and a peace of mind.

**Willie Chandler, 673 Glade Road Havana, FL**

Mr. Chandler appeared before the Board. He is the son of Erlene Clemons Chandler. He stated he was never able to cross that bridge until it was remodeled. It was a peaceful spot for him now.

**Michael Brown**

Mr. Brown appeared before the Board. He stated he wanted to thank them for the financial blessing that they give them every year. He stated they need more audio, visual, and media assistance so that people could know what he does.

**Laurice Thomas, 1510 Escadrille Drive Tallahassee, FL 32308**

Ms. Thomas appeared before the Board. She stated she was there to speak on Agenda Item 12. Chair NeSmith stated they will wait until they get to that Item then.

**General Business**

Chair NeSmith called for a motion to move up Agenda Item 16. He stated they did not want to hold up the Gadsden County staff.

**COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION TO MOVE UP AGENDA ITEM 16 AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS MOTION.**

**7A. Approval of a One-Time Employee Bonus for Eligible Gadsden County Sheriff Office Staff from ARPA funds**

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. He stated it seeks approval for a one-time Employee bonus for Eligible Gadsden County Sheriff Office staff from ARPA funds. It proposes a one-time bonus payment of gross \$3,000 for full-time employees and \$1,500 for part-time employees.

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

**7. Approval to Confirm the Director of Economic Development**

Mr. Dixon introduced TJ Lewis, the new Economic Development Director. Mr. Lewis thanked them and stated the last 3 weeks have been fresh air to him. Commissioner Holt stated she was excited for him and was hoping to come up with a plan to look for some real funding before they finalize the budget. Commissioner Hinson stated he was passionate about Economic Development. He asked the County Administrator would this position be writing grants and expanding business. Mr. Dixon stated yes.

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

**8. Approval of Authority to enter negotiation regarding opportunity to Lease space for New Economic Development Office**

Mr. Dixon stated as they were making their rounds throughout the County, one of the things they noticed was that the Marie Brooks Gallery that features the art of another native son Dean Mitchell, was closed and had a for sale sign on it. He wanted them to consider leasing with Mr. Mitchell.

Commissioner Green wanted to clarify that Mr. Dixon was asking for an approval of this agenda item. Mr. Dixon stated yes. Commissioner Hinson stated he believed in buying not leasing. That way they could be able to own their stuff and it would show the community that they were in the business of buying.

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

Commissioner Green stated he agreed with Commissioner Hinson as it related to investment and buying properties. He knows that facility is for sale, so he would like to know about the possibility of negotiating the price to where they could purchase that facility. He hoped that the Attorney and County Administrator would work with the owner of the building to start working numbers.

9. **Approval of Appointments to the Tourist Development Council**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. He stated there were two applicants, Ronte Harris and Charles Williams, who are seeking to be appointed to serve on the Tourist Development Council.

Commissioner Green asked if they knew how many people applied for this. Mr. Dixon stated those were special positions. Ms. Steele stated the two applicants have already participated in workshops. She stated they reach out and ask them if they want to be involved in the process. Commissioner Hinson asked why a school board member could not be a part of this. Mr. Knowles stated the statute sets who is on it. They have to be a bed tax collector, one from the largest municipality. He stated if the school board member was a bed tax collector and fit the other statutory requirements, they could serve.

Commissioner Simpkins stated in the analysis on the agenda item it stated that the County distributed the application for membership on various mediums to attract the appropriate candidates. From what she understood, those applications were not necessarily where you had applications being distributed and then you had people that actually applied for it. There were two people chosen and those people were placed on there. So, if the Council is just choosing then maybe it needs to change to say that the Council decides who they want to apply to be on the Tourist Development Council. Commissioner Simpkins asked if there was an additional opening for a person of tourist interest; where would that application be found? Mr. Knowles stated in the past, they typically reached out to Commissioners and then Commissioners could recommend folks from their district who fit the bill based on the vacancy. He stated the vacancy right now is not a bed tax collector, it is just a person who is interested in tourism. He stated he was not sure how the actual application goes out. Ms. Steele stated they also have the application on their website. So, they are able to submit an application, however, they do have to replace their bed tax collector. They are looking for someone who owns a hotel or is in the bed tax business. They also have the Tourist Interest vacancy.

Commissioner Hinson asked Chairman NeSmith if he could bring back to them how many years everyone has been on the Tourism Board to make sure they were in compliance. He stated it was Chairman NeSmith's responsibility to serve on the Tourism Board. Chairman NeSmith asked the County Administrator if he could get them the names of the members on that Board.

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

10. **Approval to Award RFP 23-05 Emergency Management Contractual Services to The Integrity Group Professional DBA of Blue-Sky Emergency Management, LLC**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. He stated it seeks Board approval to authorize the Manager to negotiate the contract and for the Chairman to execute the contract.

Commissioner Simpkins stated when doing RFPs, she would like to see the proposals for each of the applicants. Commissioner Hinson stated normally they would interview the top 3 candidates of the score. The Board determined who they approved from that point. Commissioner Simpkins requested that it be pulled because she would like to see the proposal's first. Commissioner Holt stated she was ready to vote. She stated she calls Mr. Dixon to have him explain certain items to her. Commissioner Green wanted to know what the time sensitivity was in these items. He asked if this was something they could put off until the next Board meeting. Mr. Dixon stated that was hard to quantify. He stated all of them have to do with hurricane preparedness so they will certainly move it if they want to. The other ones had to do with their hiring of an Architecture. Ms. Daniels appeared before the Board. She stated they have big binders for the responses to the RFPs. They are following the procurement policy. She stated those documents are available in the procurement office but it would be difficult to include it as an agenda item because sometimes they are big thick binders. Commissioner Green stated in the future, if they could include that summary every time for the sake of transparency.

Commissioner Simpson stated when she was taking a look at the actual award and looking at the time from which the sign in of the evaluation, if those packets were really that big, then she was not sure how they were able to open at 10:00 and end at 10:30 with four different proposals. So, that particular RFP, the response obviously was not that large. Ms. Daniels stated the bid opening was just that, the opening of the bids so that they record who submitted a bid and what the time was that they submitted it. She stated the bid evaluation is totally separate.

Commissioner Hinson stated it was about transparency. He mentioned interviewing each person that way each Commissioner could know what they were looking at. Commissioner Green stated it was listed in the package that if they wanted this information, they could have requested it via email. He supported having a summary of each one. Commissioner Hinson stated he wanted to be transparent so other people could have the same information that they have. Commissioner Holt stated it was their responsibility to check out the agenda items; they have two weeks. They could call the County Administrator regarding any items showing on the agenda. Commissioner Simpkins stated she just received this on Thursday. She did not have time to reach out to them. She agreed with Commissioner Hinson that if they were doing contracts, then, those top three should come before them and state the services they provide.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE MOTION. COMMISSIONER HINSON AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS OPPOSED.**

**11. Approval of the Contract with Clemons, Rutherford and Associates, Inc. for Architectural Services**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item.

Commissioner Hinson he has worked with the before. He stated fairness needed to be in the process. He stated they are a great company but the process needed to be fair. He stated it could not be fair if they did not give the other groups a chance to go out there. He stated they need to make sure they get the top three. Commissioner Green stated it was not in their policy as of right now. He stated he would like for them to start doing that, but they have followed procedures already in place. They need to trust the staff that has done these particular applications. Commissioner Green stated they could correct them if he was wrong, but to his understanding,

they did not interview the top three individuals. Ms. Daniels stated the interviewing of potential respondents to RFPs is not a part of their current procurement policy and they have to follow the policy that they have adopted. Commissioner Green asked Ms. Daniels if they were following the state procurement policies or could they add their own niche to it as it related to being a part of the process of the top three. Attorney Knowles stated there were certain requirements that they had to follow. If there were things that Commissioner Green wanted, they could add those. Commissioner Hinson stated they could table all of this and get it right. There is no rush.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND CHAIRMAN NESMITH SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE MOTION.**

**12. Approval to Award RFP 23-07 Emergency Debris Removal Services**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item.

Laurice Thomas appeared before the Board. She stated she is the Director of Development for the Big Bend Minority Chamber of Commerce. She stated with Gadsden County being the only minority-majority County in Florida, they should be a leader in creating opportunities for minority-owned companies to scale up and build wealth. She encouraged them to reject all of these bids because they lack minority points or participation. She stated if they could work with minority businesses and build capacity so that they would have the opportunity to come as a prime contractor.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she knows they have a couple small businesses in Gadsden County. She asked if they take a look at the companies that would be managing it and if they would sub-contract with companies here, particularly minority companies. She stated it could be up to a million dollars for this debris contract. She asked if they make sure that the people they contract with, like entrepreneurs and small business owners, are saying they do have something in place. She mentioned a policy where they will be subcontracting with some of their smaller debris companies. She asked if the contract expired. Mr. Dixon stated yes, this was a new RFP. Mr. Dixon stated the Commissioners have made it very clear regarding minority participation. He stated they are just getting to the point where they could actually not only see it in verse, but could follow it up in terms of policy. Commissioner Simpkins stated Mr. Dixon was right in saying that a lot of them are not prepared and ready for the federal contract. She asked how committed are those people that they are rewarding millions of dollars to. Mr. Dixon stated all parties have to be. The primary contract holder has to be prepared.

Commissioner Holt stated after Hurricane Michael, they had two debris removal companies at that time. She stated they were the only one in the region that already had a debris removal company already signed up. She stated they have to look at their policy and procedure and put those points in where they want them at. She mentioned putting in points for hiring minority contractor.

Commissioner Green asked how do they identify those minority businesses. He mentioned reaching out to the minority chambers as a Board to find out what services they provide and if they meet the necessities for subcontractors.

Commissioner Hinson mentioned seasonal work and stated subcontractor was making \$5-7,000 a day. It was life changing, especially for small businesses. He asked what happened to the Contractor that they had last year.

**CHAIR NESMITH CALLED FOR THE VOTE TO ACCEPT CALL OF THE QUESTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT. THE BOARD VOTED BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR OPTION ONE OF THIS AGENDA ITEM. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM. COMMISSIONER HINSON AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS OPPOSED.**

**13. Approval to Award RFP No. 23-04 EMS Billing Services to Digitech Computer, LLC**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. He stated this item seeks approval to award RFP No 23-04 for EMS Billing Services to Digitech Computer, LLC for the County's EMS billing services.

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

**14. Approval of Resolution 2023-014 Grant Budget Amendment for FY 2023**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. He stated this item seeks approval and authorization for the Assistant County Administrator and Finance Director to complete and execute all budget amendments necessary to maintain a balanced budget for Fiscal Year 2023 BOCC budget.

Commissioner Hinson asked if there was anything in there that was not approved. Ms. Daniels stated these were all grant budget amendments.

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

**15. Approval of Calendar of Events and Estimated Expenses for the Gadsden County Bicentennial Celebrations**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. He stated this item seeks approval of the events planned for the Bicentennial Celebration. The Clerk's office had asked that they further outline things to their very best.

Commissioner Simpkins said some events, especially in September, should be itemized. She asked if the mega-reunion still had a concert. Mr. Dixon stated no. Commissioner Simpkins asked about the funding. Charles Hayes appeared and said funding was \$4,000. Mr. Dixon stated yes. Commissioner Simpkins stated she saw nothing celebrating Hispanics. Chair NeSmith asked if it was based on recommendations of the advisory board. Mr. Hayes stated yes. Commissioner Green stated he was glad Commissioner Simpkins brought that up because there is a Hispanic that he is close to that he recommended to contact her regarding the Bicentennial. He asked which month do they have the Hispanic event. He stated maybe they could consider giving money towards that event. Chair NeSmith asked Mr. Hayes if there was a cross section of representatives on the Advisory Board; if it was a reflection of their entire County. Mr. Hayes stated almost.



Commissioner Green mentioned how far they were behind in regards to the Bicentennial. He stated on the County level, he was embarrassed that they had not paid vendors. Mr. Dixon stated next week they will review their procurement policy. He stated they want to be right and efficient. He stated they also invited the Clerk's office to come in and sit with them so they could all be on the same page.

Commissioner Holt asked if other schools have contacted the committee or had anything planned? She mentioned Chattahoochee, Greensboro, and Monroe. Mr. Hayes stated they have not heard from them. Commissioner Holt mentioned to Mr. Knowles that when looking at the procurement process of getting people for activities and they voted on what they want to do, she wanted to make sure that everything was legal.

Commissioner Simpkins wanted to make sure they were utilizing local artists and promote locals. She wanted to make sure they take advantage of the locals that have a big following here.

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

16. **Approval of a One-Time Employee Bonus for Eligible Gadsden County Sheriff Office Staff from ARPA funds**  
**Moved to Item 7A**

17. **Approval of Millage Rate for TRIM Notification and Set the Date, Time and Place for the Public Hearings to Adopt the Fiscal Year 2023/24 Gadsden County Budget**

Ms. Daniels introduced the above item. This item seeks approval of the millage rate in TRIM notification and to establish the September budget hearing dates to provide this information to the Property Appraiser's office by August 4, 2023. She stated they have two proposed hearing dates. Their first hearing date is scheduled for September 12<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. The second public hearing is scheduled for September 19<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. Ms. Daniels stated that have to set a tentative millage rate today. She stated their current millage rate is 9 mills. The Fiscal Year 23-24 rollback rate is 7.8597. The July 1<sup>st</sup> taxable value provided by the Property Appraiser's offices for operating purposes was \$2,053,368,076 which is \$260,165,386 more than last year's taxable value of \$1,793,202,690. Pursuant to F.S. 200.065, the calculated rolled-back rate (ad valorem rate that generates the same amount of property tax revenue as last year) is 7.8597 mills which is 1.1403 mills lower than the current millage rate of 9.0000.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she wanted to make sure that when going through this budget, they are being fiscally responsible with the funds they already have.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR OPTION 3, APPROVAL OF 9.5 MILLS, AND CHAIRMAN NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM. COMMISSIONER HINSON AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS OPPOSED.**

**17a. Approval of Fuel Services Inter-Local Agreement**

Ms. Daniels introduced the above item. This item seeks approval of a revised inter-local agreement with the Florida Department of Corrections for fuel services.

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

**17b. Discussion and Direction of Agreement between Florida, Gulf & Atlantic Railroad Contraction and Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners**

Ms. Daniels introduced the above item. This item seeks discussion and direction of an agreement with Florida Gulf & Atlantic and Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners to reconstruct railroad crossings at Shady Rest Road and Scotland Road.

Curtis Young appeared before the Board. He stated the cost to repair the tracks is \$10,176. He stated they would be responsible for the asphalt which would be \$25,000 per track. The total would be \$60,176.

**COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MOVED APPROVAL TO MOVE AHEAD WITH THE REPAIR OF THE TRACKS ON SCOTLAND ROAD AND SHADY REST ROAD AND COMMISSIONER HINSON SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**18. Clerk of Court  
Updates**

**19. County Administrator  
Updates**

Ms. Daniels stated they have a movie night at Tanyard Creek. They will be showing Spider-man.

**20. County Attorney  
Updates**

Mr. Knowles wanted to thank EMS, Ms. Daniels, and everyone who helped during his medical episode a few weeks ago.

Mr. Knowles stated he needed to make two quick motions. He is requesting a SHADE meeting.

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

Mr. Knowles stated they have mediation on the 15<sup>th</sup>. The court ordered them to produce a corporate representative. Typically, that is the Chair. Mr. Knowles asked for a motion to approve Chair NeSmith to attend that mediation.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER GREEN, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE CHAIR NESMITH TO ATTEND THE MEDIATION.**

**21. Discussion Items by Commissioners**

**Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2**

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned safety concerns. She stated on the website, they have listed where they were asking for citizens input. She was not sure if they were going in and actually reviewing the comments. One of the comments she saw was about a safety issue as it related to the line on Salem Road. She stated it needed to be replaced. She asked Ms. Daniels if they could have Mr. Young to take a look at that. Ms. Daniels stated they could look into it and see if there was something they could do. She mentioned the increasing of funding next year for striping. Next year they will add an additional \$150,000 making the total \$300,000.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she wanted to make a motion to name the bridge to Earline Chandler Bridge. Hinson 5-0

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS TO NAME THE BRIDGE ‘EARLINE CHANDLER BRIDGE’ AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned the timeline on the parks. She was aware they received a breakdown and wanted to know the timeline as to when they will begin. Ms. Daniels stated they do not have a timeline. They need to get with their Engineers on some design issues for their parks. She stated they had a meeting with them a couple weeks ago and they were pretty close. There were some components they were still waiting to hear from. Commissioner Hinson asked why Havana was not on that list. He stated he went to Rich Bay Park and he could see through the building. Ms. Daniels stated those were just recommendations of the parks and it was not in concrete. She stated they could add an additional park depending on the funding. Curtis Young appeared and stated he did speak with the engineer about those parks and they will be here on this coming Thursday to meet with him and Ms. Daniels.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned Granicus and stated she was aware that August was supposed to be the date. She asked where they were with that. Ms. Steele stated they were getting ready to start training staff on how to do the website.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned Mosquito Control. Curtis Young appeared and stated they already looked at a Contractor and they were setting up a date for the Contractor to meet with the County Administrator.

Commissioner Simpkins stated that on Saturday there will be a teacher supply giveaway at 11 o'clock at Ward's Lot. She stated she will be hosting a back-to-school drive and community day beginning at 12 o'clock at the St. Hebron Park on Saturday. She also mentioned that she needed a place to be able to meet with her constituents.

**Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4**

Commissioner Holt stated she thought they were going to take a look at all the parks and then take action. Ms. Daniels stated they were looking at a timeline for all the parks. Commissioner Holt stated she intended for St. John to be one of those parks. Commissioner Holt asked how

many FRDAPs could they apply for in a years' time? Ms. Daniels stated she believed they could have two open. Commissioner Holt asked if there was an agreement for the railroad stops? Mr. Young stated the railroad company informed him that they have to look at it on a case-by-case basis. The agreements were not all the same. Commissioner Holt mentioned having a minority chamber. She stated there was nothing in their procurement process that would limit any minority from applying for these contracts.

Commissioner Holt asked for updates on the Massey building, Stevens School, Health Unit, and the agreement with the Hospital. She also wanted an update on repairs for Barack Obama Blvd.

**Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5**

Commissioner Green mentioned updates on Stevens School and the Boys & Girls Club. He stated they need to schedule the ARPA workshop as soon as possible. Commissioner Green stated on September 15<sup>th</sup> will be the Homecoming for Gadsden High School. He was contacted by the Booster Club asking for help from them. He stated he thought it would be great for them to work the concession stands. Commissioner Green mentioned that on August 7<sup>th</sup>, Impact Gadsden, which is a group of local ministers, are having a Back to School Prayer.

**Commissioner Eric F. Hinson, District 1**

Commissioner Hinson stated he wanted to make a motion to change Jaylen Martin from a Recognition to a Proclamation.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

Commissioner Hinson mentioned that Attorney Marva Davis was retiring and asked for a Proclamation for her.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE PROCLAMATION FOR MARVA DAVIS.**

Commissioner Hinson thanked everyone who hosted back to school events. He stated Midway City Hall will be hosting a back-to-school drive on Saturday.

**Chairman Kimblin E. Nesmith, J.D., District 3**

Chairman NeSmith congratulated Commissioner Green on being elected for Southern Regional Director. He stated it is August 1<sup>st</sup>, they have two contracts that are coming up soon and they were not going to wait until the last minute. They have the County Administrator's contract that ends December 1<sup>st</sup>. They need to discuss in a workshop on how to move forward with this. He also mentioned the Legal Services contract ends March 1<sup>st</sup>. Commissioner Holt asked for a copy of the contracts.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:59 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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

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**NICHOLAS THOMAS, CLERK**