

**AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN
AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA
ON OCTOBER 23, 2023 AT 3:00 P.M.,
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS
HAD, VIZ:**

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

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair NeSmith called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm. Commissioner Green provided invocation. Chair NeSmith led into the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Review and Approval of the 2024 Gadsden County Legislative Priorities

Mr. Dixon stated this item is presented to the Board for review and approval of the 2024 Gadsden County Legislative Priorities. He went through the priorities and the requested amounts as followed:

Gadsden County Department of Elderly Affairs - \$1,000,000

Upgrades/ Renovations to the Edward J. Butler Building - \$2,420,552.50

Water and Sewer Expansion / Quincy / I-10 Interchange - \$4,000,000

Water and Sewer Expansion / Quincy / Jefferson Street East - \$3,000,000

Manufacturing Training Programs for Youth and Adults - \$2,000,000

Gadsden County Sports Arena Complex - \$40,080,000

New Fire Trucks, Hydrants and Water Systems - \$21,000,000

Courthouse Renovations - \$3,068,000

Gadsden County Arena and Livestock Pavilion - \$2,268,000

Havana Public Safety Facility Upgrades - \$2,000,000

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Quincy Industrial Park / Joe Adams Road and Pat Thomas Park Road Expansion - \$4 Million

Gadsden County Sheriff Public Safety Unit and EOC - \$5 Million

Final phase of Public Safety Complex – with furnishing - \$5 Million

Expansion of Jail to meet future needs of the Mental Health & Substance Abuse Contract with Children & Families - \$6 Million

Mobile Disaster Unit - \$600,000

Sheriff's Annex Building / Gadsden County Youth Center / Roof Repair & Renovations - \$200,000

Greensboro Town Hall / Community Center - \$1,150,000

Chair NeSmith mentioned projects around the Walmart area and asked if they were increasing capacity for pipes. Mr. Dixon stated the pipes are not the problem, the pressure is. They will be needing tanks in order to sustain the high-pressure systems.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if the priorities were in any particular order. Mr. Dixon stated he was just reading through them and are not in any particular order.

Commissioner Simpkins stepped out at 3:34 p.m.

Commissioner Simpkins returned at 3:34 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson appeared at 3:35 p.m.

Commissioner Simpkins stated it would be helpful if priorities were ranked. She was told it would be helpful to the Delegation. Commissioner Green asked if they could rank them now. Commissioner Hinson stated the municipalities would rank them and bring them back to BOCC. Mr. Dixon stated they should probably go ahead and rank them.

Chair NeSmith asked what should be #1 on the priority list and Commissioner Green recommended for new fire trucks, hydrants and water systems to be #1.

Commissioner Hinson asked about Midway and Mr. Dixon stated they did not get anything from Midway. Commissioner Hinson stated it would be good to know which departments these are coming from.

Commissioner Simpkins stepped out at 4:22 p.m.

Commissioner Simpkins returned at 4:24 p.m.

Commissioner Green stepped out at 4:33 p.m.

Commissioner Green returned at 4:37 p.m.

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Commissioner Green suggested that they go through the packet instead of going back and forth and spending 45 minutes to an hour discussing one project.

Commissioner Simpkins stepped out at 4:47 p.m.

Commissioner Simpkins returned at 4:48 p.m.

Chair NeSmith stated for the Havana Public Safety Facility to be #2. Commissioners agreed. Commissioner Green stated he would like for both Water projects to be #3.

Chair NeSmith asked about #4 on the priority list. He stated they should go back to projects they already funded. They decided to have the Sheriff Public Safety and EOC complex be #4 on the priority list, Greensboro Town Hall to be #5, and then Sports Complex will be #6 on the priority list.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned the Arena and Livestock Pavilion and they decided for that to be #7. Commissioner Green stated the Gadsden County Pat Thomas Ecotourism Park will be #8 and the Manufacturing Training Program for Youth and Adults to be #9 on the priority list.

Commissioner Hinson asked about housing in state level; a lot of folks losing homes. Commissioner Green asked about numbers for the Health Department. Ms. Daniels stated they were not requesting funding, just support.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned the Expansion of Jail to Meet Future Needs of the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Contract with Children & Families and it was set as #10 for priority.

Commissioner Green stepped out at 5:32 p.m.

Commissioner Green returned at 5:34 p.m.

Chair NeSmith asked for a recommendation for #11 on the priority list. They decided to have Elderly Affairs be #11.

Commissioner Green recommended #12 to be Upgrades/ Renovations to the Edward J. Butler Building. He stated he was fine with the Courthouse renovation or the Edward J. Butler renovation for #12

Commissioner Simpkins stated she thought they requested the historical preservation grant. Mr. Dixon stated this was just in case it did not come through.

The Commissioners agreed for the Courthouse renovation to be #12 and the Upgrades/ Renovations to the Edward J. Butler Building to be #13. They also agreed to have #14 be the Mobile Unit Sherriff's Office request, #15 to be the Records Building, and the Sherrif Annexe Building to be #16 on the priority list.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD (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 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.

Regina Davis, 315 W Washington St Quincy, FL

Ms. Davis was confused on ranking these priorities. Mr. Dixon stated every municipality has been invited to submit what their priorities were.

Commissioner Green stated every municipality had an opportunity to submit something to the county. He stated in the future, to have a cut-off date of receiving projects.

Commissioner Simpkins stepped out at 4:17 p.m.

Commissioner Simpkins returned at 4:19 p.m.

Sheila Knowles, 528 E. Park Ave. Tallahassee, FL 32301

Ms. Knowles appeared before the Board to discuss the Legislative priorities. She would like for them to consider her project to be top on the priority list.

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Adjournment

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

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, CLERK