AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JANUARY 16, 2024 AT 6:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

Present: Ronterious "Ron" Green, Chair, District 5

Alonzetta Simpkins, Vice Chair, District 2

Eric Hinson, Vice-Chair, District 1, Kimblin NeSmith, Chair, District 3

Brenda Holt, District 4

Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator Opal McKinney-Williams, Attorney Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Green called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Mr. Pewitt provided Invocation and Ronneya and Ronnaye Kaphers led into the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

Amendments and Approval of Agenda

Mr. Dixon stated he has one addition to the agenda, Item 12a, Approval of the proposal to provide redistricting services.

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

Awards, Presentations and Appearances

1. Recognition of Mary Bush Smith

Mr. Dixon stated he has a recognition of Ms. Smith and Commissioner Simpkins presented the recognition to Ms. Smith.

CONSENT

Mr. Dixon asked to pulled item 7 for discussion and Commissioner Simpkins asked to pull item 6 for discussion. Also, Commissioner Hinson asked to pull items 10 and 12 for discussion.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH THE EXCEPTION OF PULLING FOR DISCUSSION ITEMS 6,7,10, AND 12 AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

- 2. Ratification Memo
- 3. BOCC Meeting/Workshop Minutes:
 - a. December 19, 2023 Regular BOCC Meeting
- 4. Approval of Task Order (Design/Survey) Dogtown Road
- 5. Approval of Service Contract for Special Magistrate
- 6. Approval of Lease Agreement with Enterprise Fleet Management
 Item pulled for discussion.
- 7. <u>Approval of the Agreement for Gadsden County Legislative Advocacy Public Relations</u>
 <u>Services</u>

Item pulled for discussion.

- 8. Approval of payment to Classic Shirts, Inc. for the Veterans Affairs Department
- 9. Approval of Policy Number 2024-001 Public Works Boot Purchasing Policy
- 10. FY 2024 1st Quarter Expenditure Report of transactions within the County Administrators
 Threshold

Item pulled for discussion.

- 11. Public Officials Bond Review
- 12. Approval for the Finance Office to Process Payment for Invoices Regarding the Greensboro Mega Reunion

Item pulled for discussion.

12a. Proposal to Provide Redistricting Services

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

6. Approval of Lease Agreement with Enterprise Fleet Management

Mr. Dixon stated they have approximately 72 vehicles in their fleet. 51% of them light and medium duty and at least ten years old. They have another set of vehicles that are approaching 5-6 years old. Currently, the Sheriffs' Office and other cities are in a Fleet Management program. He stated it is important that they renew the Fleet. In the package, they will see that not only do they rent a lot of cars for staff to travel, they often do not have the appropriate vehicles that they need to perform in service. There would be no vehicle available other than a van, if they have one. This was an opportunity to renew the Fleet. Staff did research and saw they spend \$32,000 a month fixing vehicles.

Chair Green asked what was the plan with the current vehicles. Mr. Dixon stated eventually, they will go into the Fleet Management System and be renewed.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she saw where the budget would be \$45,000. They were just assuming they were able to get that amount for the current Fleet, but what happens if they do not? On the agreement to sell the customers vehicles, she saw the agreement there but there aren't any numbers in there.

Jean Bortis, Accounting Executive with Fleet Management, appeared before the Board. He stated that they do not like using auctions, they hand sell the vehicles. They only use auctions when vehicles are unsafe. He stated in regard to the \$44,000, the Board is in full control. The goal is to help them recycle their Fleet properly.

Commissioner Simpkins wanted to make sure it was a benefit to them. She asked if his program provides an actual savings. Mr. Bortis stated they did an analysis based on the data they provided and they projected they will save over \$700,000 over the next ten years.

Commissioner NeSmith asked Mr. Dixon if they have an approved vendor. Mr. Dixon stated yes. Commissioner NeSmith mentioned that it shows Enterprise Fleet is proposing to upgrade

31 vehicles. He asked if they are replacing the same type of vehicles. Mr. Dixon stated the facility has asked to go from trucks to vans.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if repairs are covered and Mr. Bortis stated yes, maintenance repairs are covered. Up to 100,000 miles, the vehicles are 100% covered. The only thing they do not include are things like tires and brakes. Commissioner Simpkins stated she wanted to know what they are approving tonight. Are they approving the 31 vehicles?

Mr. Bortis wanted to clarify that the reason why there are no prices in their contracts is because there is no cost to working with Enterprise. When they sign the agreement, they sign for them to engage in a partnership. The only time they pay is when they actually get a vehicle delivered. He stated if they ever need to do 15 vehicles instead of 31 vehicles, they can adjust that.

Chair Green asked if this was all in the budget that they were already operating out of for their vehicles. Mr. Dixon stated the number that is not in there is an estimate number of new vehicles they purchase on a regular basis. They have the line items.

Commissioner NeSmith mentioned the Fleet Management Agreement #3, where it stated that for each vehicle sold, the customer shall pay Enterprise and Administrative fee of the lesser of and he asked what was the amount. Mr. Bortis stated they charge \$400 to dispose of the vehicle.

Commissioner NeSmith asked the Attorney if there are any issues that could cause concern. Attorney McKinney-Williams asked about open lease vs closed lease. Mr. Bortis stated the way it works is that they hold title to the vehicle very similarly to where if they were to go buy a vehicle at a bank and financed it, the bank would still hold the title and they would technically own the vehicle. With open-ended leases, they do not have any wear tail penalties. The moment they pay off the vehicle, they have the option to take title or they could dispose of it.

Attorney McKinney-Williams stated this master equity lease agreement speaks in terms of true lease. She did not see that it allows for what Mr. Bortis said where based on the quote type, you have a different lease type. She asked if there was language in there that reflects that. Mr. Bortis stated he would have to get with his legal team.

Attorney McKinney-Williams mentioned the term being 5 years and stated there was language in there under rent in Sub 3 that talks about there being certain things that occur if you got a term over 48 months and if you have mileage on the vehicle that is greater than 15,000 miles per year, which a lot of these vehicles will not get up to or exceed that. She wanted the Board to be aware that the contract does provide for certain things to occur if they have exceeded certain thresholds.

Mr. Bortis stated they could always provide any kind of vendendums that they need to help them. He would gladly put her in contact with their legal department and get to where they are comfortable. He mentioned that all of the open-ended leases have no mileage restriction.

Chair Green asked about the time frame for this and Mr. Dixon stated they could bring this back to them to make sure the Attorney is comfortable.

Chair Green asked for a motion for this Item to be tabled until the next meeting.

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

7. Approval of the Agreement for Gadsden County Legislative Advocacy Public Relations Services

Mr. Dixon stated he asked for item 7 to be pulled due to a scrivener error in the contract, it should say 2025. The advocate has asked for an addition up to \$75,000. \$60,000 is budgeted. He stated if the Board chooses to move this, they will ask that the money come from Reserve for Contingency.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THIS ITEM WITH CORRECTION AND INCREASE MENTIONED BY THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE THE MOTION.

10. FY 2024 1st Quarter Expenditure Report of Transactions within the County Administrators Threshold

Mr. Dixon wanted to verify if they were asking for expenditures that he made within his authority that would need Board approval. The Commissioners stated correct.

Commissioner Hinson asked about utility payments. He stated that he was unaware that they offered assistance with utility bills, payments through the Elderly Affairs. He saw that payments range from\$179 to \$1,700. He stated if this is a service that they do offer, how could they get this information out to the people? He asked if there was an application process and how much aid could a household apply for? He also asked about qualifications and wanted to know when did they start assisting with down payments and closing cost for families. He mentioned that on the line items it showed utility assistance for Talquin and Town of Havana.

Mr. Dixon stated if they are in Elder Affairs, those bills are associated with a grant that they have that seniors qualify for when they request services.

Ms. Daniels stated there are two parts to that program. There is a part that the state provides some funds for payment of utility bills, and there is a portion that is approved in the Elderly Affairs budget to help the senior citizen clients that participate in their programs with bills that are severely behind.

Chair Green stated he believed that there is an application process that is on site at the senior services. It is open to any of their seniors, they do not have to be an active member of the senior citizen facility per se, but they have to be a citizen within Gadsden County.

Commissioner Hinson asked if all funds come from state dollars. Mr. Dixon stated there is no county dollars in the utility program. Commissioner Hinson asked if they could send him the application so he could get it out to the people. Mr. Dixon stated yes.

Commissioner Hinson asked if the \$7,500 for assisting with down payments and closing costs for families was federal and state or was it county. Mr. Dixon stated they do not put very many dollars in the housing program, so it is state and/or federal dollars. He recalled that down payments and closing costs have always been a part of the new housing program.

Commissioner Hinson stated he was talking about that particular \$7,500. He was aware that USDA assisted the county with that particular funding, so he was wondering why is that on this list if USDA spent it.

Commissioner Hinson mentioned line item 24-145 where it showed funding for down payment and closing cost for Hayward Title Group. He was wondering if the funds came from the County or was it state. Ms. Daniels stated that particular item was paid with grant funds. She was not sure at the moment if it was state or federal dollars.

Commissioner Holt stated all monies they get from SHIP are not local. The Housing Department applies for different funds and match up to see if someone does not have the down payment. Everything that goes through that department comes from the state or federal government. Everyone has the opportunity to apply.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned line items 24-082 and 24-139. She stated it shows Bank of America and was curious on those, especially the one coming from the commission budget.

Ms. Daniels stated those Bank of America payments are payments if something was procured, purchased on the P card. The vendor shows up as Bank of America.

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

12. Approval for the Finance Office to Process Payment for Invoices Regarding the Greensboro Mega Reunion

Mr. Dixon stated this for approval for the finance office to process payment for Invoices for the mega reunion in Greensboro. This item was one of those in the Bicentennial. He stated Greensboro came in late and they were not identified specifically and finance has asked to get their approval.

Commissioner Hinson stated he read through the packet and asked that they make sure they get rid of the Social Security Number showing on the packet.

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

Commissioner Hinson stated they already approved Item 12a in the consent agenda but wanted to ask the Board to rescind his vote.

Chair Green stated he would have to make a motion. Commissioner Hinson made a motion to rescind his vote on Item 12a because he has a question regarding it. The motion failed due to a lack of a second.

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 <u>CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.org</u> 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.

Commissioner Simpkins read aloud the above statement.

Rutha Black, 103 Jim Williams Road

Ms. Black appeared before the Board and asked about the thought process for wild hogs. She stated her yard is constantly being destroyed and she is afraid of them.

Chair Green asked if there were any updates because it was serious. Ms. Black stated that when the hogs multiply, they can drop at least 20 pigs at a time.

Commissioner Hinson stated there were some in District 2. Mr. Dixon said by the next meeting, they might have a plan; he believed the extension service has been working with IFAS. He stated the problem was that the wild hogs reproduce really fast. They need to study the animal and develop a program that catches multiple at a time. The hogs are intelligent and will never go back to a site once they find out it is not for them. Mr. Dixon stated that at the last meeting, Mr. Jones made it clear that that ask was probably going to be about \$100,000.

Robbie Jones, IFAS Director, appeared before the Board. He stated they would need to hire at least 2 animal control officers to monitor traps. They also have costs with euthanasia. He said that one trap that is the preferred method is the netted trap.

Commissioner NeSmith stepped out at 7:29 p.m.

Commissioner Holt asked if people eat the pigs. Mr. Jones stated they did not recommend it because they estimate at least 20% of them carry diseases. Commissioner Holt stated one time they had a problem with large animals and asked if there are any other issues. Mr. Jones mentioned coyotes and had issues more in rural areas with those. Commissioner Holt asked about big cats and Mr. Jones stated they have seen some camera footage of panthers.

Commissioner Hinson stated he saw a panther in a camera footage shown to him. There are some in Havana.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

13. Public Hearing (Quasi-Judicial) – Re-submission of Conditional Approval for the Havana RV Park Conceptual/Preliminary Site Plan (SP 2022-04)

Mr. Stiell presented the above item. He stated this was a resubmission of a conditional approval that the Board issued last year at the May 2nd meeting. There were two items that the applicant would like for the Board to reconsider. The Board added the following conditions j.) they limit the size of the recreation vehicle to 40 feet to be consistent with the diagram provided by the applicant, and k.) ensure the owners has resolved all title issues associated with the properties, ensure that all boundaries of the parcel have been properly identified, all surveys have been completed and the applicant has obtained fee simple ownership in all parcels prior to the issuance of a development order. Applicant has attempted to resolve all title issues, but the title company hired by the applicant was unable to establish ownership of the shaded area shown on the site plans. The shaded area on the site plans appears to be a portion of a street which was platted as part of the Town of Hinson in 1902 but never constructed (Coleman Street). Due to the uncertainty as to ownership, Applicant is not proposing any development in this area and does not claim ownership of this space.

At the May 2, 2023 meeting, the applicant's agent stated they would be installing both left (northbound) and right (southbound) turn lanes as required by FDOT. The Board stated the approval was conditional based on meeting the requirements of FDOT. Applicant has gone back to FDOT and asked that they reconsider the left (southbound) turn lane. FDOT has said that they will allow the development to be approved without the left (southbound) turn lane. In order for them to move forward, they need a determination by the Board that they do not need to be responsible for resolving the issues of property ownership outside of the property they own, and that a determination is made on whether or not that right turn lane needs to be installed. The Board asked Mr. George whether or not they intended to install the turn lane at the previous meeting and he stated yes and that was why they were bringing this back to them.

Commissioner Holt asked if they could put on the screen the roadway in front of the property. They showed page 40 of 112 on the packet.

Robert George appeared before the Board.

Commissioner Holt asked if this was north of Coastal Lumber and Mr. George stated South. She asked about the log trucks and Mr. George stated from the traffic study, the percentage of trucks on U.S. 27 is less than 10%.

Chair Green asked who did the traffic study. Mr. George stated Drew Roark, a consulting firm.

Chair Green stated the 10% seemed low. He also wanted to make sure they understood correctly that DOT did not support putting the turning lane. Mr. George stated the Florida Department of Transportation came back without seeing the study, and made a comment that they need a turning lane. It was prior to the study being done.

Commissioner Simpkins stated trucks are in Boisie constantly. 10% is low coming from that area. She asked if the property was before the old Hobbit. Mr. George stated yes if you are heading north.

Commissioner Simpkins asked about residences. Mr. Stiell stated they did not do citizens bill of rights. Mail was sent to all residents. The Board has previously approved this and the only exception is what was before them now.

COMMISSONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE ITEM WITH A TURNING LANE AND WITHOUT THE TITLE AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS MOTION.

GENERAL BUSINESS

14. Appointment of Commissioner and Alternate to the Canvassing Board Mr. Dixon presented the above item.

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

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

15. <u>Board Direction on Gadsden County Legal Services</u>

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. This item was seeking direction on Gadsden County Legal Services.

Commissioner Hinson thought they should give it one year instead of 2 years for this. Commissioner Simpkins agreed.

Commissioner NeSmith stated they need more attention from legal services in house. They have issues with Ordinances that have not been reviewed. Chair Green stated he thought they were going to schedule a more in detailed workshop on legal services. He stated that even if they moved to put an RFP out, they need to get some directions on when they want to do it and if they wanted to have a workshop before putting it out. Chair Green stated it could be the same firm they currently have; he was not against the firm. He just wanted to have the opportunity for them to see what else was out there.

Commissioner Holt stated they have discussed this for a few months now. They could decide how an RFP can be written. They need to look at performance. She stated they need to put this out in a timely manner, that way everyone could have the opportunity to look at what they want in the RFP.

Commissioner Simpkins needed clarification on things not done and whose end was this on. She believed that they should hold off on doing an RFP and extend this for a period of time.

Commissioner NeSmith stated he wanted to be clear that the current law firm had not presented any deficiencies. The contract has come of point of renewal. Commissioner Simpkins stated the contract itself needed to be looked at.

Commissioner Holt stated it would require to put out an RFP. If there was a problem, she brought it up with Mr. Pittman.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO PUT OUT AN RFP FOR THIS ITEM AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS MOTION. COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS AND COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.

16. <u>Discussion of Previously approved Ordinance No.: 2023-07 Amending Chapter 2 of the Code</u>
of Laws of Gadsden County, Florida, by Amending Sections 2-141 and 2-142 Relating to
Expenditures for Miscellaneous Purposes

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. Commissioner Simpkins wanted this item brought back before the Board.

Commissioner Simpkins requested the amount to be amended. If there are purchases needed to be made, anything over \$1,500 needs to come before them for miscellaneous purchases. The motion failed due to no second.

CLERK OF COURT

17. Updates

No updates.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

18. Updates

Mr. Dixon stated they will have an updated list of items on parks and down the list sent to the Commissioners tomorrow.

Mr. Dixon stated the Legislature is off and running; they were already passing bills.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

19. Updates

No updates.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

20. Commissioner Eric Hinson, Vice-Chair, District 1

Commissioner Hinson mentioned a post: "The time is always right to do what is right".

He stated he had the opportunity to go to a couple of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebrations.

One was in Quincy dealing with the National Hookup of Black Women. He stated it was an awesome event. He went to a celebration in Havana as well.

Commissioner Hinson reminded everyone to turn on the faucets tonight. He also mentioned Congressman Lawson and his wife and stated he was praying for them.

Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, Chair, District 3

Commissioner NeSmith wished Commissioner Simpkins a happy belated birthday. He mentioned the CRTPA retreat was phenomenal. He stated they have some great projects coming from the CRTPA in regards to the School District and safety of their students.

Commissioner NeSmith thanked the City of Gretna for cleaning up.

Commissioner NeSmith mentioned that the next two days are going to be very cold and asked Chair Green if there were any facilities to accommodate the homeless. Chair Green stated hours the facilities will be open. He solicitated that some of the organizations could volunteer to provide food.

Commissioner NeSmith mentioned to the County Administrator about the sign on the Courthouse lawn and asked to adjust it. He also stated that he wanted citizens of this County to stay warm.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt asked for an update on Stevens School and Mr. Dixon stated they were beginning the discussion on available space.

Mr. Stiell stated the Environmental has been completed. Florida Commerce came back with some comments last week about addressing things before they make the approval.

Commissioner Holt explained to Mr. Dixon that when she started working there, she was employed with the school system as well as Commissioner Hinson. They were both dual employed. She stated that Mr. Lawson contacted her and said he notified the State of Florida Retirement about her retirement. There was some money paid out for the County because of that dual employment. \$160,000 was paid out by the County and asked who approved that payout. She asked if it was the Clerk's Office. She asked if it came before them and Mr. Dixon stated no. She asked Mr. Dixon if he could get more information on that and bring it before the Board.

Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2

Commissioner Simpkins last week when they had the bad weather, some of their residents are not city citizens, but they receive the city utilities and she received calls and calls. She needed to know how she could be a better assistance to her citizens during this time. She could not really give them answers. Mr. Dixon stated the city does not have meters that are read individually by their system. Chair Green stated the City Manager is accessible to all of them. He could provide information as it relates to those type of situations.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned having a workshop with the Boys & Girls Club. She also mentioned Jamieson Road and stated it needed some attention.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned Lake Talquin and stated they needed to look at getting channels marked so they could bring in some of those big tournaments.

Commissioner Simpkins thanked everyone for the New Years Brunch. She mentioned Attapulgus Highway and asked about the status. Mr. Young appeared before the Board and stated they started working on it yesterday.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned lights and Mr. Dixon stated they were developing an RFP.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5

Chair Green stated at Lake Talquin there is a ramp that the County has ownership on. He walked on the wood and realized it needed to be replaced.

Chair Green mentioned High Bridge Road and asked about the status. Mr. Young appeared before the Board and stated they were looking at a 4 way stop.

CHAIR GREEN MADE A MOTION FOR A RECOGNITION OF BISHOP WILLIE GREEN AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS MOTION.

Commissioner Hinson mentioned a lot of accidents off of Midway. They needed to figure out what was going on and how they could assist the City of Midway. Chair Green stated not in just that area, but as well as 267. There have been multiple accidents within the past couple of weeks. They needed to have a conversation with dispatch. Mr. Dixon stated the way dispatch is set up is becoming problematic. He will be bringing this back again.

Commissioner Hinson provided a green light moment:

"The time is always right to do what is right" – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

21. Memo: Expenditures from Line Item 0001-54805 for October 1, 2023 - December 13, 2023

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN DECLARED THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED AT 9:05 P.M.

	GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA
	RONTERIOUS GREEN, Chair Board of County Commissioners
ATTEST:	
NICHOLAS THOMAS Clark	