

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON FEBRUARY 6, 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, District 1,  
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3  
Brenda Holt, District 4  
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator  
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney  
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk

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

Vice-Chair Simpkins called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. Invocation was provided by the Reverend. Ms. Jordan led into the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S Flag.

*Commissioner Hinson appeared at 6:01 p.m.*

*Commissioner Holt appeared at 6:02 p.m.*

**Amendments and Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Dixon stated he would like to remove item 1 & 2 due to the bishop not being available. He also mentioned to remove item 7 because it was incomplete and would like to pull item 13 except for the City of Quincy contract.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AMENDED AGENDA AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**Awards, Presentations and Appearances**

- ~~1. Recognition of Bishop Willie Lamb, Sr.  
(Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners)~~
- ~~2. Recognition of Presiding Elder Tan Moss  
(Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners)~~

**CONSENT**

Commissioner NeSmith asked to pull Item 12 and Commissioner Hinson asked for Item 13 to be pulled for discussion.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ITEM 12 AND ITEM 13 BEING PULLED FOR DISCUSSION AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

3. **Ratification Memo**
4. **BOCC Meeting/Workshop Minutes:**
  - a. January 8, 2024, Redistricting Workshop #1
  - b. January 10, 2024, Emergency Meeting (FINN)
  - c. January 16, 2024, Redistricting Workshop #2
  - d. January 16, 2024, Regular BOCC Meeting
5. **Approval to Repair and Update the Fire Sprinkler System at the W. A. Woodham Building**
6. **Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Liens and Rehabilitation Contracts - State Housing Initiative Partnership Program (SHIP) and Gadsden County Emergency Repair Program (ER)**
- ~~7. **Approval of Task Work Order (Design -Survey) - Barineau Road Over Willachoochee Creek Bridge Rehabilitation**~~

Item pulled.
8. **Approval of Task Work Order (Design -Survey) - Fairbanks Ferry (2nd Phase)**
9. **Approval for the Finance Office to Process Payment for Holiday Outdoor Décor**
10. **Approval of Agreement with The Integrity Group to Provide Professional Emergency Management Contractual Services on a Continuing Services Basis**
11. **Approval to Award RFP No. 24-01 Graphic Design Services**
- ~~12. **Approval to upgrade an aging fleet through a Lease Program with Enterprise Fleet Management**~~

Item pulled for discussion.
- ~~13. **Approval of Fire Department's Interlocal Fire and Rescue Service Agreements**~~

Item pulled for discussion.

**Items Pulled for Discussion**

**12. Approval to upgrade an aging fleet through a Lease Program with Enterprise Fleet Management**

Commissioner NeSmith asked if there were any concerns that they still had regarding this item. Mr. Dixon stated no. Commissioner NeSmith asked the County Attorney if he had the chance to read the lease agreement. Mr. Knowles stated yes, they read it and had a meeting with the vendor and they made some changes to the document for venue and a couple of other things were clarified.

*Chair Green appeared at 6:08 p.m.*

Commissioner Simpkins asked about the vehicles they were selling and if they were allowed to sell vehicles that may have been purchased via a grant. The County Attorney stated yes, if they own them and have the title.

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

**13. Approval of Fire Department's Interlocal Fire and Rescue Service Agreements**

Mr. Dixon stated they have had discussions about nonprofits and insurance. He mentioned Havana was concerned about losing money. One of the fixes he was going to propose to them is to take everyone up to \$49-50k. He wanted to ensure that cities were treated the same all across the Board. He stated Havana had some strictly Havana situations that they wanted to talk about and so the Chiefs will take the opportunity to see what they could work out. Mr. Dixon stated he will bring this back to them in 2 weeks.

Commissioner Hinson stated he spoke with the Havana Town Manager. He spoke with the County Administrator and asked to pull this item and have a workshop with the Town of Havana.

Commissioner Simpkins wanted to make sure they meet with each of the volunteer fire departments to ensure each of their concerns are met.

Commissioner Hinson stated he would like to schedule a workshop with the Town of Havana.

Commissioner Holt stated they need to work out their concerns. She stated they could continue contracting with the cities, they could do independent contracting with people that do fire, or they could start their own county fire service.

Chair Green stated everyone would need to come to the table for a workshop. He asked about the timeframe for this and the County Attorney stated with the exception of Havana, 180 days since November 1. He mentioned that the Town of Havana had sent a separate extension agreement that they would like signed.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she would like for the County Administrator to meet with each fire department before the workshop.

Commissioner Hinson stated they have an additional 3 months and they should take that time to meet with each fire department. Mr. Dixon stated they would certainly do as the Board wished and have those meetings and schedule the workshops.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO SCHEDULE A WORKSHOP WITH ALL OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND THAT THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR PROVIDE ALL CONCERNS BEFORE THEIR WORKSHOP. COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND WITH DISCUSSION.**

Commissioner Hinson stated they needed to have a meeting separate with the Board and let the County Administrator give them the plan. That way they would know exactly what some of the changes were.

Chair Green suggested for each commissioner to meet with the County Administrator. That way when they do go to the meeting, everyone would have had the opportunity to know what they would be discussing and what changes they would like to make.

Commissioner NeSmith asked how many contracts they have with the fire departments. The County Attorney stated 12. Chair NeSmith asked how long have they been contracting with the 12 departments. Commissioner Holt stated except for the nonprofits, they had those contracts already.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO HAVE A WORKSHOP PRIOR TO HAVING A WORKSHOP WITH THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

Commissioner Simpkins made a motion to approve the Havana contract. Mr. Knowles stated to Commissioner Holt that the contract was the same. Commissioner Holt stated they could not approve something that the Attorney said was the same if they did not have the contract in front of them. Chair Green asked Commissioner Simpkins if they could take care of this in the next meeting. Commissioner Simpkins stated that was fine but this was really on the Commissioners because it was sent to them. They were the ones who dropped the ball.

Mr. Dixon stated the City of Quincy would like for them to approve their contract.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CITY OF QUINCY FIRE CONTRACT AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**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 on the County's website at [www.gadsdencountyfl.gov](http://www.gadsdencountyfl.gov).

Commissioner NeSmith read the above statement aloud.

**Brian Small, 144 Williams St Havana, FL**

Mr. Small wanted to go over the redistricting that was voted on and its effects. He would like the County to reconsider the redistricting as it affects the local campaign. He would like to get it back in accordance with the State Statute.

**Sherrie Taylor 217 W Clark St Quincy, FL**

Ms. Taylor appeared and stated she was asked by the Chair to go before them and give an overview of what they used the funding for from the county. She thanked them for the \$45,000 provided for Gadsden Wellness. She handed out invoices.

Chair Green stated this was one of those to put into perspective. He thanked her for sharing this with them. Commissioner Hinson thanked her for sharing the invoice.

**Sonja Wilson Lewis & Carolyn Ford, 420 Shiloh Rd**

Ms. Wilson-Lewis stated they were there tonight on behalf of the Future Builders' Club of America. They requested financial assistance of \$7500 for a Vegas trip.

Chair Green stated they have done an outstanding job. He stated there was a vote taken as it related to nonprofits however, he would like to make an exception to give them money.

Commissioner Hinson thanked them for moving forward. He thanked the leaders for exposing the kids.

Chair Green stated they will bring this up later in the meeting regarding the \$7500 request.

**Public Hearings**

**14. Public Hearing: Approval of Resolution 2024-002 Budget Amendment for FY 2023-2024**

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. Ms. Daniels stated this item seeks approval of Res. 2024-002 Budget Amendment for FY 2023-2024.

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

**General Business**

**Clerk of Court**

Updates

**County Administrator**

Mr. Dixon mentioned that they had Rural County Day. He stated they received a grant award of 6 million dollars. 4 million will go to the area of Chattahoochee for a Tele-Health Center and 2 million will go to Havana.

**County Attorney**

Updates

**Discussion Items by Commissioners**

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

Commissioner Hinson made a motion to recognize Tyrone Davis. Chair Green stated they requested a proclamation for him and to check on thoughts on that and maybe take a different approach.

Commissioner Hinson asked what was the budget now for the Future Builders of America.

Ms. Lewis stated \$23,000 and they need to raise about \$8,500.

Chair Green asked what they were building. A member of the club stated they were making a blueprint of a mansion in Utah.

*Commissioner NeSmith returned at 7:13 pm.*

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

Commissioner NeSmith mentioned trash issues to the County Administrator and stated there was relocating of that issue.

Commissioner Hinson asked the County Administrator about the Summer Youth Program. Mr. Dixon stated they were developing a new plan to incorporate what they have requested.

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

Commissioner Holt asked about the workshop for non-profits before the Future Builders of America leave for the Las Vegas Trip on February 24. She stated they already voted to not give any more money until they have a workshop.

Commissioner Holt asked how much has the School Board donated to the Future Builders of America. Ms. Lewis stated nothing; last year when they did ask the School Board for funding, it was met with a lot of backlashes. They did eventually give money to the group so they could travel. She stated their main sponsor Kerwyn Jones-Wilson has been asking for funding for that trip. The majority of the funding received has come from fundraisers and Go Fund Me's.

Commissioner Hinson stated he will give \$1,000 to the Future Builders of America.

Commissioner NeSmith asked Ms. Lewis when the process started on going to Las Vegas. Ms. Lewis stated this process has been in the works since they competed back in October/November. They had built a life size dog house.

Commissioner Holt brought up telemarketers. She stated she received calls from elderly people and she wanted to inform everyone to not say yes when a telemarketer asks if it is you. They are trying to scam.

**Vice-Chair Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2**

Commissioner Simpkins stated she would like to make a motion to approve the Havana Fire contract and Commissioner Hinson had made the second.

Commissioner Holt asked the Attorney if there was anything different than the contract they gave. Mr. Knowles stated it was substantially the same, just worded in a different way. Commissioner Holt stated she could not vote for it because it was not in front of her.

Commissioner Simpkins stated they were in February and they do not have a contract with the Town of Havana and they are providing services in unincorporated areas. It was not their fault because they sent that information over. Commissioner Holt stated they needed to compare the 2 documents and then vote on it.

Commissioner Simpkins asked Mr. Dixon to provide the Commissioners with what the difference is between the 2 documents. She rescinded her motion and Commissioner Hinson rescinded his second. Commissioner Simpkins mentioned lighting and cameras. Mr. Dixon stated they met with the Sheriff's Office and the provider for the cameras.



Commissioner Simpkins asked where they were with the salary schedule. Mr. Dixon stated he will have a meeting on Friday and then present it to them. Commissioner Simpkins also mentioned looking into sidewalks in unincorporated areas.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned Beaver Creek Drive and asked if it was private or public. Mr. Young stated the County maintains a portion of it.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned the bridge dedication in Honor of Earline Clemmons and thanked the staff.

Commissioner Hinson mentioned striping. Mr. Dixon stated they have completed the striping that they had funded last year.

**Chair Ronterious Green, District 5**

Chair Green thanked Mr. Young for the ramp at Lake Talquin. Chair Green mentioned a Health Coordinator and asked where they were with that. Mr. Dixon stated they were developing that position.

Chair Green asked about Steven School. Mr. Dixon stated they received authorization on the 1<sup>st</sup> to use grant funds. After approval, they will run advertisement to select construction.

Chair Green mentioned sidewalks and stated Spooner Road needed a sidewalk.

Commissioner Hinson presented Tim Miller from the Town of Havana. Mr. Miller appeared before the Board and stated that the contract extension they were given referenced certain portions of the contract. He stated their Attorney found that it would be better rewritten as an extension of the contract in its entirety. Since September 30, they have not been covered under the County Fire Contract.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
February 6, 2024-Regular Meeting

**Motion to Adjourn**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN DECLARED  
THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:07 PM.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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**Ronterious Green, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners**

**ATTEST:**

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**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**