

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON MARCH 5, 2024 AT 6:00 P.M.,  
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

**Present:** Ronterious Green, Chairman, District 5  
Alonzetta Simpkins, Vice-Chair, District 2  
Eric Hinson, District 1  
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3, appeared thru Zoom  
Brenda Holt, District 4  
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator  
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney  
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk

**CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Green called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. Commissioner Simpkins provided Invocation. Chair Green led into the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Dixon stated he had an amendment to pull item 15; a meeting has been set.

Commissioner Holt stated to add TDC items from the February 12 TDC meeting for approval. Mr. Dixon stated to add it as item 8a under consent. Commissioner NeSmith asked about the item packet for the TDC items. TDC minutes from February 12 were passed out to the Commissioners.

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

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**CONSENT**

Vice-Chair Simpkins asked to pull items 3,4,5, 13, and 14. Commissioner Hinson asked to pull item 12.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH THE  
EXCEPTION OF THE ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE  
SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**1. Ratification Memo**

**(Clerk of Court)**

**2. Approval to Confirm the Director of Human Resources**

**~~3. Approval to apply for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant~~**

Pulled for discussion.

**~~4. Approval of the Amended Contract with AE Engineering, Inc. for Engineering Consulting Services~~**

Pulled for discussion.

**~~5. Approval of the Amended Contract with ALDAY Howell, Inc. for Engineering Consulting Services~~**

Pulled for discussion.

**6. Approval of Bid Award to Capital Asphalt, Inc. for Hardaway Highway Resurfacing**

**7. Approval of Task Order with Alday-Howell, Inc. for CEI Services on Hardaway Highway**

**8. Approval of Agreement the State of Florida Department of Transportation Off-System Utility  
Adjustment Agreement for (High Bridge Road) over Little River Bridge**

**~~8a. Approval of TDC Funds February 12 Meeting~~**

Pulled for discussion.

**9. Approval of Bid Award to Roberts & Roberts for Spooner Road**

**10. Approval of Supplemental Agreement for Spooner Road**

**11. Approval of Task Order with AE Engineering for CEI Services on Spooner Road**

**~~12. Approval of Task Order (Design – Survey) – Barineau Road Over Willachoochee Creek Bridge Rehabilitation~~**

Item pulled for discussion.

**~~13. Approval of FDOT Grant Applications Resolution~~**

Item pulled for discussion.

**~~14. Approval of Task Order with AE Engineering, Inc. FDOT Grant Application~~**

Item pulled for discussion.

**~~15. Approval of the Town of Havana Interlocal Fire and Rescue Service Agreement~~**

Item pulled.

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

**3. Approval to apply for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant**

Commissioner Simpkins state she received concerns from the fire departments relating to applying for the grant. She asked what data was being used. Chief Hood appeared.

Chair Green asked if they could all apply for the same grant. Chief Hood stated they could which could be troublesome.

Chief Hood stated not it was not written from a single department, it was from the County level. Chair Green asked if the department applied in the past. Chief stated yes, not sure of success rate. Mr. Dixon stated he talked with Havana; they have not applied for any grants. Commissioner Holt stated if there is fire in any city, they call several fire stations to help. Chief Hood stated communication could be better.

Commissioner NeSmith stated they were utilizing a system that is not working and they need to come up with a better system.

Commissioner Simpkins stated they attended a fire chief meeting with Chief Walker; need to do better job on their end on communication.

**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.**

**4. Approval of the Amended Contract with AE Engineering, Inc. for Engineering Consulting Services**

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. Commissioner Simpkins stated she had a problem with task orders not coming before the Board. Mr. Dixon stated these task orders do not have to do with the overall project; just single-issue items.

Commissioner Simpkins stated they need to make sure things are put in a timely manner.

Commissioner Holt stated they were about to do major projects; should not be worried about \$35,000.

Ms. Daniels stated there is no fiscal impact with amending the contract; just gives additional authority to the County Administrator to be able to move task orders more quickly.

**COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE THIS ITEM AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER HINSON AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS OPPOSED.**

**5. Approval of the Amended Contract with ALDAY Howell, Inc. for Engineering Consulting Services**

**COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE THIS ITEM AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER HINSON AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS OPPOSED.**

**12. Approval of Task Order (Design -Survey) - Barineau Road Over Willachoochee Creek Bridge Rehabilitation**

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

**13. Approval of FDOT Grant Applications Resolution**

Mr. Dixon presented the above item.

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

**14. Approval of Task Order with AE Engineering, Inc. FDOT Grant Application**

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THIS ITEM AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS OPPOSED.**

**8a. Approval of TDC Funds**

Commissioner Holt stated in the TDC Meeting on February 12, they approved \$10k for the Gadsden Arts center, \$10k for the Havana History and Heritage Society, \$10k for the Future Builders of America Las Vegas, \$35k for Black History Month, and \$15k for Treasure Hunt.

Commissioner Holt mentioned the fish competition. All activities are to draw people to the county. Also mentioned Future Builders of America and stated they wore county shirts.

Chair Green asked about the budget for TDC. The budget for TDC is \$92,000.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE TDC FUNDS FROM THE FEBRUARY 12 TDC MEETING 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**

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](mailto: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.

Chair Green read aloud the above statement.

**Derrick Elias**

Mr. Elias appeared before the Board. He stated he had never seen 15 items under consent agenda and suggested to itemized them.

Mr. Elias stated if items take 40 minutes to discuss about, then it should not be on the agenda. He asked who puts these things on the agenda and what monies does county pour back into City.

Mr. Elias mentioned animal control and asked what type of agreement was there between the County and the City. He stated there was 2 loose Pitbull's in his area and he called but no one responded to the call. He asked if there was a response time.

Mr. Dixon stated the staff designs the agenda. He stated they do have an agreement with Quincy for animal control services and stated if there was no response to the call, he would like to know about it.

**Public Hearings**

**General Business**

**16. Updates**

No updates.

**17. Updates**

**(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator)**

Mr. Dixon stated the audit was almost completed for the year. He stated they were awarded the Broadband funding; they were getting contracts in. They got approval to move on with the Boys and Girls club. He stated the COMP study was finished and will bring it to them in the next meeting. He mentioned that Summer Youth will start this week with having meetings. They started to draft the

lighting program. It will be a program that could take years and it depends on how they want to fund it. Mr. Dixon stated bulk item pick-up begins April 1 and runs through May 2.

**18. Updates**

**(Clayton Knowles, County Attorney)**

**19. DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

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

Commissioner Hinson stated he enjoyed his time at Black History events.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR IRA SIMMONS AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.**

**Commissioner Kimblin E. NeSmith, District 3**

Commissioner NeSmith sent his condolences to the County Administrator. Commissioner NeSmith asked what was the status of Providence Road. Mr. Young stated he would report back to him on that. Commissioner NeSmith asked about Cane Creek bridge. Mr. Young stated he has not heard back from the engineer yet regarding the temporary fix of that bridge; he will reach out to him in the morning.

Commissioner NeSmith asked the County Administrator to fix potholes on Maple Street. He also mentioned Jones Street and asked for someone to take a look at that as well. He mentioned the Summer Youth program and stated it was extremely important to start soon. He asked if they were going to include CareerSource and Mr. Dixon stated yes.

Commissioner NeSmith asked about discussing the budget for the new budget season. Mr. Dixon stated as of today, they have not discussed it yet. Commissioner NeSmith asked Mr. Dixon they have produced the flyers yet for the bulk items pick up. Ms. Steele stated they will have that by the end of this week.

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

Commissioner Holt mentioned Stevens School. Commissioner Holt stated she needed to know what was the process for receiving funds after providing services. She stated the finance department belongs to the Commission, not the Chamber.

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

Commissioner Simpkins stated she would like a list of projects that have been completed so she could put a report together for her constituents.

Commissioner Simpkins stated the County Administrator mentioned lighting and asked for him to share that information with her. She mentioned cameras and asked where they were with that. Mr. Dixon stated he would follow up on that.

*Commissioner Holt returned at 8:41 p.m.*

Commissioner Simpkins asked about mowing. Mr. Young stated they will have a plan for it. Mr. Dixon stated they have talked about equipment being a big problem; has not addressed it.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she needed an office space so she could meet with individuals. She also asked what was the procedure when she needed to get in contact with the Administrator and he is not working. Chair Green stated they did not have a procedure for that.

*Chair Green stepped out 8:48 p.m.*

*Chair Green returned at 8:49 p.m.*

*Commissioner Simpkins stepped out 8:52 p.m.*

*Commissioner Simpkins returned at 8:55 p.m.*



**Chair Ronterious Green, District 5**

Chair Green stated prayers for the County Administrator and his family. Chair Green welcomed Dr. Burroughs. Chair Green thanked Mr. Young for being responsive and attending meetings.

Chair Green thanked Zeta Beta for starting new chapter in Gadsden County. He stated they agreed to adopt roads in the county.

Chair Green mentioned the Bicentennial and stated to have something for Latinos and Caucasians as well in Gadsden County. Also mentioned the Christian community. He wanted to make sure everyone was included to celebrate the bicentennial.

Chair Green stated on March 9, Wetumpka fire department is selling plates for \$10 for fundraiser.

**Motion to Adjourn**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:13 PM.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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**RONTERIOUS GREEN, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners**

**ATTEST:**

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**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**