

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON MARCH 19, 2024 AT 6:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

**Present:** Ronterious Green, Chairman, District 5  
Eric Hinson, District 1  
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3  
Brenda Holt, District 4  
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator  
Opal McKinney-Williams, Assistant County Attorney  
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk

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

Chair Green called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Donovan Woods provided the Invocation and led into the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Dixon stated he had amendments to the agenda. He requested to pull items 11a and 15a and add items 10a, 10b, and 15b.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.**

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**1. Proclamation Honoring Ida Price Simmons**

Mr. Dixon presented the above proclamation. Commissioner Hinson stated Ms. Simmons was not present and he would deliver it personally.

**CONSENT**

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.**

**2. Ratification Memo**

**3. BOCC Meeting/ Workshop Minutes**

- a. December 5, 2023 Regular BOCC Meeting
- b. February 15, 2024 Fire Services Workshop
- c. February 20, 2024 Non-Profit Workshop
- d. February 20, 2024 Regular BOCC Meeting

**4. Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Liens – State Housing Initiative Partnership Program (SHIP)**

**5. Approval and Signature for Satisfaction of Agreement and Lien**

6. Approval of Off-System Utility Adjustment Agreement 441188-1 Hanna Mill Pond Road Bridge Replacement
7. Approval of Amendment No. 1 to Grant Agreement No. SC408 between (FDEP) and the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
8. Approval of the Lease Renewal Agreement with Great American Financial Services via Advanced Business System
9. Approval of a Proclamation for Family Abduction Awareness Day May 25, 2024
10. Approval of FY 2024 February – Monthly Expenditure Report of transactions outside the County Administrator’s Threshold
- 10a. Approval to Apply for the Florida E911 State Grant Program Application to Replace the Current 911 Call Handling System
- 10b. Approval of the Addendum to the Agreement for Legal Services with Pittman Law Group, P.L.

Items Pulled for Discussion

**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.

**Public Hearings**

**General Business**

**11. Approval of MOU Between Gadsden County Emergency Services and Gadsden County Health Department**

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. This agenda item seeks Board approval of a memorandum of agreement between Gadsden County Emergency Services and the Gadsden County Health Department to work collaboratively to respond to the health and well-being of Gadsden County and

the citizens. The implementation of Community Paramedicine in Gadsden County will allow for citizens to receive care and needs addressed without calling 911 for emergency services. He stated this allowed EMS Staff to ride neighborhoods and Chief Hood and staff would know who all is in that neighborhood. They could provide supplies as necessary without calling 911. Mr. Dixon stated it was a work in progress with the Health Department.

Chief Hood appeared and stated Mr. Dixon pretty much hit the nail on the head.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THIS ITEM AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.**

**11a. Approval of the Town of Havana Interlocal Fire and Rescue Service Agreement**

Pulled.

**12. Approval of Appointment/Re-appointment of Value Adjustment Board Members**

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. It is presented to the Board to appoint/re-appoint members to the Value Adjustment Board. The current members of the Value Adjustment Board are Commissioner NeSmith, Commissioner Hinson, and Chrissy Shorter-Arnold, who was appointed by the Board as a homestead property representative.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THIS ITEM AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.**

**13. Board Direction Regarding Appointments/Re-appointments of Board Members to the Gadsden Hospital, Inc. Board of Directors**

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. It is seeking Board direction regarding the appointments/reappointments to the Gadsden Hospital, Inc. Board of Directors.

Chair Green asked how many to fill vacancies and Mr. Dixon said 5. Chair Green asked how many agreed and Mr. Dixon stated most have resigned; they did not appoint last year. Chair Green asked if it was the Commissioner's responsibility to ask someone to join.

Commissioner Hinson stated they did not have a leg to stand on with this; maybe the attorney could negotiate.

Commissioner NeSmith stated they have talked about this hospital issue for a while and it was a complicated contract. Based on his reading, there were 7 openings out of 9. He stated under Class One and Class Two, they were all expired. Under Class Three, one resigned out of those 3 positions.

Commissioner Hinson stated to have a workshop to read the contract and see where they could go.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 OF THIS ITEM AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.**

**14. Approval of Supplemental Agreement for South Adams Street**

Mr. Dixon presented the above item.

**CHAIR GREEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THIS ITEM AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.**

**15. Approval of Flock Safety Agreement**

Mr. Dixon presented the above item.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THIS ITEM AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**15a. ~~Approval of the Gadsden County Implementation Plan Relating the Gadsden County Opioid Settlement Funding~~**

Pulled.

**15b. Approval of a Resolution, the Florida Department of Transportation Agreement 451999-1-94-01, and the Big Bend Transit Memorandum of Agreement to Accept \$245,000 for Bus Shelters in Gadsden County**

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THIS ITEM AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.**

**Clerk of Court**

No Updates.

**County Administrator**

Mr. Dixon stated the Boys & Girls Club of the Big Bend have invited all to the Soiree on Saturday evening.

**County Attorney**

No Updates.

**Discussion Items by Commissioners**

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

Commissioner Hinson asked for a proclamation for 30<sup>th</sup> chapter anniversary for Alpha Fraternity.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION FOR A RECOGNITION FOR 30<sup>TH</sup> CHAPTER ANNIVERSARY AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE THIS RECOGNITION.**

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO RECOGNIZE DON WHITE AND CHAIR GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE THIS RECOGNITION.**

Commissioner Hinson stated to continue to stay positive.

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

Commissioner NeSmith thanked the County Administrator for the Bicentennial free concert; he had an opportunity to meet stakeholders.

Commissioner NeSmith asked for an update on Cane Creek Bridge. Mr. Young appeared and stated the engineer gave 2 quotes, 2.1 million dollars, or 4.1 million dollars to get it torn out and completely replaced.

Commissioner NeSmith asked the County Administrator about Summer Youth. Mr. Dixon stated they have met with both programs; they were looking to meet with the public safety institute as well as the school district. Chair Green stated they need a workshop on Summer Youth.

Commissioner Hinson stated he believed they were overthinking things for the kids; they want to make sure the kids are busy doing something.

Commissioner NeSmith stated someone wanted to make a comment. Chair Green stated for him to continue.

Bonnie Foshee, 19 Sugarmill Way, Havana

Ms. Foshee appeared before the Board. She mentioned the flock program and was worried about Artificial Intelligence.

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

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR RUBY BRADLEY AND CHAIR GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE THIS PROCLAMATION.**

Commissioner Holt stated she has been talking to counties about fire services.

Commissioner Holt stated she has had 4 complaints about the emergency room. 2 were complaining about nobody being in the lobby, one complained about kiosk, and one complained about being taken to the wrong hospital.

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

Absent.

**Chair Ronterious Green, District 5**

Chair Green stated they pulled item 15a but they need to have a more detailed conversation; he would like a workshop on this on Wednesday, March 27.

**COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE A MOTION FOR A WORKSHOP ON ITEM 15A AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.**

Commissioner NeSmith and Commissioner Holt rescinded their motion and second.

**CHAIR GREEN MADE A MOTION FOR A SPECIAL MEETING ON ITEM 15A AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.**

Chair Green thanked Ms. Whaley on the presentation. He asked the citizens to not put out bulky items too early.

Chair Green stated they need to put other things in the budget as it related to security.

Chair Green thanked the schools and special Olympics; he stated he gave an invocation. He stated they had a great time. He also mentioned that he wanted to do something for special needs individuals; he wants to find a special needs park.

Commissioner Holt mentioned that the bass tournament is on the 30th; she stated there is a \$5,000 reward on the first fish caught.

Commissioner Hinson stated they need a budget workshop soon.

Mr. Dixon stated to not confuse a party with selling the county; thousands show up. They were changing the way people think about Gadsden County.

Commissioner NeSmith provided a greenlight moment:

“It is not a disgrace not to reach the stars, but it is a disgrace to have no stars to reach for. Not failure, but low aim is a sin.” – Dr. Benjamin Elijah Mays

**Motion to Adjourn**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:19 PM.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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

**ATTEST:**

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**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**