

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

Present: Ronterious 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

Chair Green called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. Vice-Chair 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 items 9,10, and 11. He wanted to add items 12a, Approval for the Finance Office to Process Payment for Keshia's Kitchen, and item 12b, Approval of the Big Bend Community Based Care, Inc. d/b/a NWF Health Network Business Agreement – Opioid Settlement.

COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

Awards, Presentations and Appearances

1. Proclamation for Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month

Mr. Dixon read aloud the above item. Commissioner Hinson presented the proclamation for Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month.

CONSENT

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

Commissioner NeSmith asked to pull item 5 for discussion.

2. Ratification Memo

3. BOCC Meeting/Workshop Minutes:

a. March 19, 2024, Regular BOCC Meeting

4. Approval of Bid Award for the construction of the Barack Obama Roundabout

5. Approval of CR 274 Ben Bostick Road Agreement
6. Appointment of Substitute Medical Examiner for District II of the State of Florida and Gadsden County
7. Approval and Signatures for Satisfaction of Special Assessment Lien
8. Approval of the Judicial Inquiry System (JIS) Inter-Agency Agreement provided through the Office of the State Courts Administrator (OSCA)
9. Approval to Submit Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Application to Purchase and Install Generator at the Robertsville Fire Station
10. Approval to Submit Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Application to Purchase and Install Generator at the EMS Facility (Joe Adam Road Location)
11. Approval to Submit Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Application to Purchase and Install Generator at the Special Needs Shelter (Hospital Location)
12. Approval of Emergency Operation Center Construction
- 12a. Approval for the Finance Office to Process Payment for Keshia's Kitchen
- 12b. Approval of the Big Bend Community Based Care, Inc. d/b/a NWF Health Network Business Agreement – Opioid Settlement

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

5. Approval of CR 274 Ben Bostick Road Agreement

Mr. Dixon stated they got money to resurface and widen Ben Bostick Road. The project is 1.7 million dollars and it was funded and ready to go.

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 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 Green read aloud the above statement.

Cynthia Reese-Donaldson, 1066 Harbin Road Quincy, FL 32351

Ms. Donaldson stated her concerns are about the harassment on her neighbors regarding H&V Farms. On Sunday, there was an event going on, but they had a lot of residents on Watson Road that were harassing the people coming to the event. She stated there was no noise and she does not hear the music on her property. If she could not hear the noise, she knew the people on Watson Road could not hear it. She felt that the Gadsden County Police Department should have gone and talked to that resident that was out there harassing the people.

Commissioner Hinson asked if the Sheriff was informed about this issue.

Colonel Collins with the Sheriff's Office appeared and stated his responsibility on Sunday was site safety. He echoed Ms. Donaldson's sentiments and her comments, however, her facts were not correct. When they heard that there was an incident, allegedly by a neighbor with a gun, not only did they dispatch a deputy there, Deputy Manny DeLeon was the first one on scene, Deputy Stacey Yeomans was the second, and Colonel Collins also responded. No one they spoke to could identify anybody that had a gun. He stated this incident was still under investigation.

Chair Green stated he enjoyed the event and he walked someone to their car who was parked way in the back and he could not really hear the music.

Sarlentia Holt, 931 Watson Road

Ms. Holt appeared before the Board and stated she was part owner of H&V Farms. She stated she wanted to attest to what Colonel Collins was saying but also about the hatred that they have received since owning the property. She stated there was a Facebook post about there being a Watson Road war. It was becoming a personal attack against them. She stated they deserved to be on Watson Road.

Christopher Holt, 385 Hogan Lane

Mr. Holt appeared and stated he was part owner of H&V Farms. He stated he has received death threats and the residents on Watson Road go and take pictures on his property. He asked the County Administrator and the Commissioners to have a conversation with these residents. He stated they were dealing with a hatred issue.

Chair Green stated this was more of a law enforcement matter. They want to make sure that all of their citizens were safe. There is an investigation that is ongoing now, but he was hoping that everything that Mr. Holt has shared has already been given to law enforcement as well.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

13. Approval of Resolution 2024-009 and Budget Amendments for FY 2023-2024

Mr. Dixon presented above item and Ms. Daniels explained the amendments made.

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

14. Approval of the Florida Department of Commerce Agreement HL-222 Providing the County with State Funding for the Design and Construction of a Boys and Girls Club

Mr. Dixon presented the above item.

Commissioner Simpkins stated they all need to come to table. She was not sure about setting up a design for somewhere that has not been agreed upon.

Chair Green asked if there was a backup plan location wise and if that same design would be able to fit in about location if the City of Quincy does not agree with the location at MLK tracks.

Mr. Dixon stated it was a great location. There were concerns about the overflow of children and the traffic on MLK. They do have a backup location. They were going to engage with the city and look at the design.

Commissioner Simpkins stated they all need to come to the table. They were under the assumption that this has been agreed upon. She stated she has been requesting a workshop as it related to the Boys & Girls Club. She has no idea what the backup location is.

Mr. Dixon stated they already set the meeting with the Boys & Girls Club. He was not stuck on a location. If the City of Quincy does not agree with the location, he will take it back to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Holt asked if the design was portable. Mr. Dixon stated they have not done the design yet. Commissioner Holt stated they need to go ahead and approve this and then they can look at the design.

Chair Green stated he would like to table this to have a meeting with the City of Quincy first.

Mr. Elias stated they have more questions than answers; there needs to be some land attached because it should already be identified. This item should be tabled.

COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS ITEM AND HAVE A WORKSHOP FIRST AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

CLERK OF COURT

No updates

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

No updates

COUNTY ATTORNEY

No updates

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson asked for an update on summer youth employment. Dr. Burroughs appeared and stated everything was going as planned and they have over 250 slots for businesses.

Commissioner Hinson stated they need to start focusing on budget workshops.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION FOR ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY TO HAVE ANNUAL BIZ CRAWL AND CHAIR GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, District 3

Commissioner NeSmith thanked the County Administrator for the update on Providence Road and asked to share it.

Mr. Young appeared and stated Providence Road was in the design phase. It will come back to the Board once done to get into construction.

Commissioner NeSmith asked about Hardaway Highway and Mr. Young stated it should be 100% designed in 30 days.

Commissioner NeSmith asked about bulky item pickup for district 3 and Mr. Young stated they started Monday and will start with district 3 on Thursday.

Commissioner NeSmith mentioned the summer youth program and stated he had seen middle schoolers learning to code in Michigan.

Commissioner NeSmith asked the County Administrator if they knew exactly what appropriations they received from the state. Mr. Dixon stated it was still open; June 1 is the veto date.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR CHARLIE HARRIS AND CHAIR GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Holt mentioned to the County Administrator about the community parks that have requests to get repairs done and asked for them to get something done with it.

Commissioner Holt asked the County Attorney to bring back the annexation state statute that gives guidance on when cities annex.

Commissioner Holt mentioned an ordinance on getting invoices from the Clerk's office; wanted to see if it could be tightened up. She stated they need to be consistent with paying bills.

Commissioner Holt stated the Treasure Hunt is on May 4 starting at the Courthouse.

Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, Vice-Chair, District 2

Commissioner Simpkins thanked the ladies at the library; showing importance of literacy.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned a safe streets and roads grant out by the Department of Transportation and stated they could benefit from that.

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION TO GIVE HAVANA FIRE \$35,000 TO PURCHASE EQUIPMENT NEEDED TO INCREASE THEIR ISO RATINGS AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 2-3 AND THE MOTION FAILED. COMMISSIONER HOLT, COMMISSIONER NESMITH, AND CHAIR GREEN OPPOSED.

Commissioner Simpkins stated that some of the Commissioners mentioned that money was not the reason for not approving the Havana Fire Contract, but that showed it was the reason. It is sad that their citizens have to raise funds for something that the County could assist with.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, Chair, District 5

Chair Green thanked Mr. Young for the signs that were put on Lakeview Road. They have been bringing to his attention that the signs need to be larger.

Chair Green mentioned ditch maintenance and asked if there was a schedule. Mr. Young stated they have a schedule for dirt roads but not paved roads. They only have one cleaning machine for ditches on paved roads.

Chair Green thanked the people who came out to the Bass Tournament.

Chair Green mentioned that the next community meeting is on May 6 and he also mentioned that the district 5 bulky item pickup is on April 29- May 2.

Chair Green mentioned making amendments to ordinances and stated to not forget that so they could go ahead and make any necessary changes. Commissioner NeSmith stated all of the ordinances need to be reviewed.

Commissioner Hinson stated the Gadsden County Extension Office is having a plant sale on April 20, 10-2 p.m.

Chair Green provided a greenlight moment:

“When someone speaks against you, you speak well of them. When you are mistreated, you treat them well. Pray evil with good, and God will fight your battles.”

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:14 PM.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk