

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON SEPTEMBER 3, 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. Chair Green led into invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Amendments and Approval of Agenda

Mr. Dixon stated to pull item 18 and add item 19a - Board Direction Regarding RFP 24-05 Legal Services.

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

Awards, Presentations and Appearances

Pulled item 1.

1. **Recognition of Diane Williams-Cox**

CONSENT

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

2. **Ratification Memo**

3. **BOCC Meeting/Workshop Minutes:**

- a. August 1, 2024, Budget Workshop
- b. August 1, 2024, Special Meeting

4. **Approval of SHIP Annual Report and Certification**

5. Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Liens – State Housing Initiative Partnership Program (SHIP)
6. Approval and Signatures for Satisfaction of Special Assessment Lien
7. Approval to Authorize the Clerk's Office to Process Stryker Invoices
8. Approval of the E911 2024 Fall Rural County Grant Application for Eventide NexLog DX Voice Recorder Annual Support, Warranty, and Maintenance
9. Approval of Big Bend Jobs & Education Council, Inc. d/b/a CareerSource Capital Region, Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners, Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners, Leon County Board of County Commissioners, and Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners Agreement
10. Approval of AE Engineering, Inc, Task Orders for Bus Shelter Design: Gadsden Express Bus Stop Upgrades
11. Approval of AE Engineering, Inc, Task Orders Threatened and Endangered Species Evaluation on Joe Adams Road
12. Approval of AE Engineering, Inc, Task Orders for Traffic Study on Joe Adams Road
13. Approval of the FY 2024-25 Rural Infrastructure Fund (RIF) Grant Application to the Florida Department of Commerce

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 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.

Gary Murray, 481 Woodberry Road

Chair Green stated Mr. Murray did not need to speak anymore as he already spoke with Commissioner Holt regarding Woodberry Road.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

14. Approval of IOPS 360 Software Agreement

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. IOPS 360 is an innovative software to be implemented within Gadsden County Emergency Services. Its primary purpose is to consolidate various operational tasks into a single platform. This software will manage equipment and supply inventory, scheduling, education, employee tracking, vehicle inspections, and check-offs. By integrating these functions, IOPS 360 aims to streamline processes, improve efficiency, and ensure that all necessary tasks are handled in a coordinated manner. This fiscal impact to the County will be \$4,636.80. This has been included in 0144-55452 for the 2024/2025 budget.

Chief Hood stated for clarification that they currently have another software that they are using and the cost for that was \$4,538. They were notified that there will be a 10-15% increase every year for the next 5 years. They did their due diligence and found this company.

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

15. Approval of Resolution for Budget Amendment for FY 2023-2024 – Summer Youth

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. \$350,000 was budgeted for the program, and it came in at half a million dollars. They need to approve a budget amendment to bring down the additional money.

Commissioner Hinson stated he would like to know how the money was spent. He needed everything outlined to approve this.

Chair Green stated they can wait for the documentation of the budget amendment, but they have already approved this.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS ITEM UNTIL THE END OF THE MEETING AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

The board came back to this item at the end of the meeting and made the motion below.

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

16. Approval of Task Orders with the Integrity Group for Office of Management and Budget Services

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. Chair Green asked if they were finished and Mr. Dixon stated no. There will be some additional costs.

Commissioner Holt asked if they could advertise the budget director as soon as possible and Mr. Dixon stated there will be interviews on Thursday. Commissioner Holt also mentioned that there needs to be two positions for the Assistant Administrator.

Commissioner Simpkins asked about the additional costs – asked if additional things are needed. Mr. Dixon stated they were looking to get those additional things someplace else.

Commissioner Hinson stated they should have had an emergency meeting. It was impossible for him to explain to his constituents that they pay one company \$52,000 for a couple of weeks.

Chair Green stated this was a bill they have to pay and he was very unhappy about that. Commissioner Simpkins asked if they gave them the bill for the 1st week or if they billed both weeks at the same time. Mr. Dixon stated they billed both weeks at the same time. Chair Green asked if they could negotiate.

Mr. Dixon stated he recognized that this was not his best work. They hired a company that did this kind of work, but does not do this kind of work under these situations. Their prices were high. Commissioner Holt asked who was doing budget. Mr. Dixon stated they were far enough to get through budget.

Commissioner Simpkins asked Mr. Dixon if it was possible to go back and discuss the rate with them.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR THE COUNTY ADMINSTRATOR TO NEGOTIATE THIS ITEM AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

17. Discussion Regarding the Lease Agreement between the Gadsden County BOCC and the St. Hebron AME Church and St. Matthews Primitive Baptist Church as owners of a 2.0 +/- acre parcel of land to be used as a County Park

Mr. Dixon introduced. Commissioner Holt brought back this item to ask questions; it was already approved at the last meeting.

Commissioner Holt stated her concern was doing leases and she was not comfortable doing it with churches. She was good with it, as long as it was not a lease. Mr. Dixon stated the lease has been approved.

Mr. Knowles stated they had some leases that were successful and some were problematic.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

18. **Discussion and Approval of Lease Agreement with the City of Quincy Lease for property located at S 9TH Street, Quincy, Florida (Martin Luther King, Jr. Track Field) for the placement of a Community Center featuring a Boys and Girls Club**

Item Pulled.

19. **Approval of Public Emergency Medical Transportation (PEMT) LOA with Gadsden County Emergency Services**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. Digitech will collect all the data required for billing, financial, and utilization data. Once this is completed Digitech will prepare all files and submit a cost report to AHCA. Digitech will ensure that the County is meeting all federal and state guidelines while also ensuring the County receives optimal revenue. Digitech will be responsible for all audits required by AHCA and the program guidelines.

Chief Hood appeared. AHCA is estimating that the County could potential receive up to \$834,116.55 of new federal funds if the County elects to participate in this year's program. All match funds and reimbursement from AHCA will occur in the 2024/2025 county budget cycle.

Chief Hood stated that Digitech was online if anyone had questions. Zach Cordino appeared through Zoom. He stated the main goal of this program is to allow them to recoup some additional federal funding in association with providing services to Medicaid patients. The cost report allows them to recoup some fundings associated with patients that are enrolled in traditional Medicaid, which is funded by the state. From that cost report, the county received about \$20,000.

County Match – not to exceed \$6

Total New Revenue – up to \$834,116.55

Digitech will receive up to 6% of total new revenue

Chair Green asked Mr. Dixon if he had any idea, based upon their numbers, what they could afford to do as it relates to the match. Mr. Dixon stated he thought they could easily do this; they have that kind of money in reserve.

Commissioner Holt asked about the timeline for reimbursement. Mr. Cordino stated it could vary.

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

19a. Board Direction Regarding RFP 24-05 Legal Services

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. At the August 6, 2024, the staff presented an agenda item seeking Board direction on how to proceed with the evaluation, interviews and scoring of the four proposals received in response to the legal services RFP. The four proposals received were from:

- The Law Offices of Craig J. Brown, PA
- Williams Law Group
- Clayton Knowles, QLLC
- Law Office of John Reid

Commissioner Simpkins stated she thought they were having a special meeting where the law firms presented in front of the board.

Commissioner Hinson stated he was not able to attend the scheduled interviews. They were giving commissioners 2 days to make a decision.

Chair Green stated he was told that Commissioner Hinson agreed to the interview times. Then, Commissioner Hinson sent an email stating that he would not be available. Chair Green stated that he had asked what would work for him. Commissioner Hinson read aloud the email he sent to the County Administrator regarding interview times. In the email, Mr. Dixon stated he contacted the Chairman regarding Commissioner Hinson's issue and Chair Green informed Mr. Dixon that the interviews will continue on the timeline set.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she was about process; there was supposed to be presentations. She only received calls regarding setting interviews and not about the process. This was being rushed and they need to follow the process.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THORNTON WILLIAMS LAW GROUP AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS, HINSON OPPOSED.

Clerk Of Court

No Updates.

County Administrator

Mr. Dixon stated the first public budget hearing will be on September 10 at 6 p.m.

Economic Development Workshop will be on September 17 at 4 p.m.

Second Budget Public Hearing will be on September 24 at 6 p.m.

County Attorney

Mr. Knowles mentioned the public records lawsuit. He stated if they would like to have a SHADE Meeting to discuss the merits of that, they could.

Mr. Knowles asked the County Administrator who was the appropriate individual to file a bid protest with. Mr. Dixon stated that would be with Sheree Keeler.

Discussion Items by Commissioners

Commissioner Eric F. Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson mentioned internet access. Mr. Dixon stated they had the opportunity to meet with Broadband professionals. Commissioner Simpkins mentioned certain type of lines being ran that could affect their service.

Commissioner Hinson stated within a couple of years of paving roads, striping disappears. Mr. Dixon stated they have to sink their teeth into striping. They need to do the expensive stuff for the lines.

Commissioner Kimblin E. NeSmith, J.D., District 3

Commissioner NeSmith asked Mr. Dixon about the trip. Mr. Dixon stated they were trying this month.

Commissioner NeSmith asked for an update on Providence Road and Mr. Dixon stated they were still in the design phase.

Commissioner NeSmith mentioned Summer Youth. He stated 2025 Summer Youth starts today.

Commissioner NeSmith stated he did not see the increase that he expected in their general revenue. They need to find additional revenue to continue the progress that they are making.

Commissioner Hinson stepped out at 8:03 p.m.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt stated she was interested in striping more than lighting. Commissioner Holt requested a meeting with all entities providing healthcare in the county.

Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2

Commissioner Simpkins requested a proclamation for Linda Mason. She is the longest living survivor in Florida right now with Sickle Cell Disease.

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR LINDA MASON AND CHAIR GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Simpkins asked about the status on the Quincy Fire Contract. Mr. Morris did not have that information with him.

Commissioner Simpkins stated they need to take a look at fire services. They were not spending anything close to what other counties are spending on fire.

Commissioner Holt requested a proclamation for her Grandson, Isaiah Foreman.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR ISAIAH FOREMAN AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5

Chair Green thanked district 5 for electing him again as a commissioner.

Chair Green mentioned Spooner Road and hoped the striping was good so it could last

Chair Green asked for an update on Cane Creek and Champs Chance. Mr. Morris stated no update on cane creek but on champs' chance, the magistrate has announced 45-day period on what will take place. 45 days will end on September 22.

Chair Green mentioned Gadsden County Jail maintenance and upgrades. Mr. Morris stated they do maintain the jail; they just did an emergency repair on control panels.

Chair Green stated he was concerned about the conditions of the facility. Mr. Morris stated they just repaired some lighting last month and also had a fire inspection. They were working on air conditioning as well. Chair Green encouraged the board members to do a walk-through of the jail.

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Commissioner NeSmith asked about the maintenance schedule for county buildings. All county buildings need to be put on a schedule. Mr. Dixon stated they were putting it together as they speak.

Chair Green mentioned the Boys & Girls Club and asked about the schedule for meetings. Mr. Dixon stated they scheduled the first 3 meetings. Ms. Steele stated the dates are the next 3 Mondays starting September 9.

Chair Green asked about the Quincy fire contract. Mr. Dixon stated he will find out more information on that.

Commissioner Simpkins asked for updates on each department and Mr. Dixon stated they will get a monthly report. Commissioner Simpkins asked about ordinance regarding county property. Mr. Dixon stated they will get back on that.

Chair Green provided a greenlight moment.

Motion to Adjourn

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN
DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:41 PM.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk