

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON DECEMBER 2, 2024 AT 6:00 P.M.,
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: **Eric F. Hinson, Chair, District 1**
 Ronterious Green, Vice-Chair, District 5
 Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2
 Shawn Wood, District 3
 Brenda Holt, District 4
 Roosevelt Morris, Interim County Administrator
 Thornton Williams, County Attorney
 Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk
 Leann Jinks, Clerk Secretary to the Boards

1. Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Hinson called meeting to order at 6 p.m. Chair Hinson led into Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

5. Amendments and Approval of Agenda

Chair Hinson stated there is a limit of 6 minutes total for comments from Commissioners per item being discussed before the board broken down as follows; 3 minutes for discussion, 2 minutes for rebuttal, and 1 minute for closing.

Mr. Morris requested to pull item 11.i, Discussion and Direction on the Former County Administrator's Severance Pay.

Mr. Morris requested to add item 11.K, Board Approval of a Task Order with The Integrity Group to Assist the County to Comply and Meet Deadlines for FEMA Disaster Recovery Reporting and Completion of Florida-Recovery Obligation Calculation (F-ROC) and 11.L, Board Approval of a Task Order with The Integrity Group to Assist the County to Comply and Meet Deadlines According to US Treasury Rules for ARPA Funds.

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Chair Hinson requested approval of the agenda.

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

6. Awards, Presentations, and Appearances

6.a CareerSource Capital Region Presentation

Representative from CareerSource was not there to do presentation.

7. Consent

Mr. Williams stated item 7.d, Approval of Sheriff's Office – Automated School Zone Traffic Enforcement Permitting Letters on County Letterhead. He stated the letters were to be to the vendors, but he received a call stating the letters need to be to the Florida Department of Transportation. He stated the request is to still approve the letters, and authorizing them to make the letters out to the proper party.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE ITEM 7.d WITH AMENDMENTS AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

7.a - Ratification Memo

7.b - BOCC Meeting/Workshop Minutes:

1. November 4, 2024, Regular BOCC Meeting
2. November 19, 2024 Regular BOCC Meeting

7.c – Approval of Library Annual Plan of Service 2024-2025

7.d – Approval of Sheriff's Office – Automated School Zone Traffic Enforcement Permitting Letters on Letterhead

7.e – Approval of the Bridging Barriers, LLC Contract

7.f – Approval and Signature on the E911 2024 Fall Rural County Grant Award Acceptance for Eventide NexLog DX Voice Recorder Annual Support, Warranty, and Maintenance

7.g – Approval of County EMS Award Grant

8. Items Pulled for Discussion

9. 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 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.

Chair Hinson read aloud some of the above statement.

10. Public Hearing

11. General Business

11.a Approval of Fairbanks Ferry Road – Agreement

Mr. Morris presented the above item. This agenda item seeks Board approval of Fairbanks Ferry Road - Agreement. This agreement is resurfacing of County Road 12 to the Leon County Line. He stated there is no fiscal impact, as this is financed through The Department of Transportation SCOP program.

Chair Hinson asked if this work included widened the road as there have been several deaths on that road. Mr. Young appeared before the Board and said, 'no it was resurfacing of existing road.'

Chair Hinson asked what the cost would be on widening the road. Mr. Young stated he was not sure, but he could get him a price. Chair Hinson said he would like that as he just wants to make that road safer.

Commissioner Wood asked about improvement of the bridge on Fairbanks Ferry. Mr. Young stated has not heard anything about the bridge improvement.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FAIRBANKS FERRY ROAD - AGREEMENT AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

11.b Approval of FL Department of Health, Bureau of EMS Matching Grant

Mr. Morris presented the above item. This agenda item seeks Board approval of FL Department of Health, Bureau of EMS Matching Grant. This grant is for Gadsden County to improve their Emergency Medical Services. This is a 75/25 matching grant with the County responsible for 25%.

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF FL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, BUREAU OF EMS MATCHING GRANT AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

11.c Request Board Approval of Modification #1 to the State Funded to Hurricane Shelter Retrofit Contract #F0100 for retrofitting of the Gadsden County Hospital to be utilized as a Special Needs Evacuation Shelter

Mr. Morris presented the above item. This agenda item seeks Board approval of Modification #1 to the State Funded to Hurricane Shelter Retrofit Contract #F0100 for retrofitting of the Gadsden County Hospital to be utilized as a Special Needs Evacuation Shelter. This modification is the number of beds as the number reported originally was in error. The original number was around 700, but the actual total is 244.

Commissioner Holt asked if that would allow room for any other vendors or is capital regional have priority over who comes in.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if they have started with this at all. Mr. Morris stated they are in the administrative portion of it now but have had engineers come out to look at the site.

Commissioner Green stated they need to have a working workshop with people that have built hospitals.

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

11.d Appointment of Gadsden County Representative and Alternate to the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency

Mr. Morris presented the above item. This agenda item seeks Board approval of Gadsden County Representative and Alternate to the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency.

Chair Hinson asked for a volunteer. Commissioner Holt said she is interested.

Commissioner Green nominated Commissioner Holt.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER HOLT AND COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

11.e Appointment to the CareerSource Capital Region Board

Mr. Morris presented the above item. This agenda item seeks Board approval to the Appointment to CareerSource Capital Region Board.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO VOLUNTEER FOR THE APPOINTMENT TO THE CAREERSOURCE CAPITAL REGION BOARD AND COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE TO APPROVE.

11.f Appointment to the Northwest Florida Business Development Council, Inc. dba Opportunity Florida Board

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS NOMINATED COMMISSIONER WOOD FOR THE APPOINTMENT TO THE NORTHWEST FLORIDA BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC. DBA OPPORTUNITY FLORIDA BOARD AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE TO APPROVE.

11.g Appointment to the Inmate Commissary Fund

Chair Hinson stated there is not a necessity to appoint someone at this time, but they could if they want to. The board did not appoint a representative.

11.h Appointment to Tourist Development Council

Commissioner Wood nominated Commissioner Simpkins.

Commissioner Holt stated she is already serving on this board and would like to stay on that board.

COMMISSIONER WOOD NOMINATED COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS FOR THE APPOINTMENT TO TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE TO APPROVE.

~~11.i Discussion and Direction on the Former County Administrator's Severance Pay~~

Item pulled.

11.j Discussion and Direction Regarding the Interim County Administrator's Compensation

Mr. Williams stated at the last meeting, there were comments to pay higher than what he is making now but a salary was not set.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO PAY THE INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR THE SAME SALARY AS THE FORMER COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR AND COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE TO APPROVE.

11.K Board Approval of a Task Order with The Integrity Group to Assist the County to Comply and Meet Deadlines for FEMA Disaster Recovery Reporting and Completion of Florida-Recovery Obligation Calculation (F-ROC)

Mr. Morris presented the above item. This agenda item seeks Board approval of a Task Order with The Integrity Group to Assist the County to Comply and Meet Deadlines for FEMA Disaster Recovery Reporting and Completion of Florida-Recovery Obligation Calculation (F-ROC). Representative John Zarvis from Integrity was there to present item.

Mr. Williams stated in the past with task orders, it appeared to be open ended, and he worked with Ms. Harris to ensure a fixed number.

Chair Hinson stated he had heartburn about budget task order.

John Zharvis, Representative from Integrity appeared and went into more detail about this Agenda item.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THIS ITEM AND COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE THE SECOND. BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE TO APPROVE.

11.L Board Approval of a Task Order with The Integrity Group to Assist the County to Comply and Meet Deadlines According to US Treasury Rules for ARPA Funds

Mr. Morris presented the above item. This agenda item seeks Board approval of a Task Order with The Integrity Group to Assist the County to Comply and Meet Deadlines According to US Treasury Rules for ARPA Funds.

Ms. Harris appeared before the board.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if they were not able to complete the contracts in house. Ms. Harris stated they were able to be completed and were being monitored. This item is for Integrity's expert help and knowledge on the different laws that are changing.

Commissioner Wood mentioned fire hydrants ISO ratings are thru the roof, and that is also why so many people had tax increases.

COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THIS ITEM AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE TO APPROVE.

Clerk of Court

No updates.

13. County Attorney

No updates.

14. County Administrator

Mr. Morris stated there is a Christmas parade scheduled for Friday, and if any Commissioner wanted to take part in it to let him know.

Commissioner Wood stated they need to focus on their children. He would hate to see kids have to choose between the parade or the football game.

Commissioner Green stated parade was probably planned before the game date was decided as they didn't know if the team would advance that far to make playoffs.

Commissioner Holt motioned for \$6k for Gadsden County Football team.

Ms. Steele stated they would have to wear t-shirts to represent Gadsden County if the funds were coming from Travel Development Council.

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION FOR \$10K FOR GADSDEN COUNTY FOOTBALL TEAM AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE TO APPROVE.

15. Discussion Items by Commissioners

15.a Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2

Commissioner Simpkins stated she wanted to get some signage for the football team, something that just says, "Go Jaguars".

Commissioner Simpkins stated there is a lawnmower parade on December 14 at 1 p.m. in Havana.

Commissioner Simpkins stated garbage in the county is out of hand. The construction work trash is being put in different areas of the County instead of taking it to the landfill. Mr. Morris stated it was stated in the building code where they need portable toilets and a dumpster to dispose of properly.

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Commissioner Simpkins stated she wanted to know where they are dropping trash off and if they can start requiring receipts of disposal before the County signs off on the permit.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned Dog Town Road. Mr. Young stated it was at 90% design and hoped to be 100% before Christmas. After that it will have to go back to DOT for review and approval.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned striping and asked if they have funding in place. Mr. Young stated the \$300k was not in budget like he thought it was, as he and Ms. Harris sat down and looked over the budget.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she needs road lines on Jaimeson Road. There are no lights and no lines, so it is very dangerous.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned needing more lighting in the Community, as she has received calls from the elderly saying they cannot see.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she received a request from Florida Association of Registered Nurse Anesthesiologist for a proclamation, as January 19 to January 25 is CRNA Week.

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF REGISTERED NURSE ANESTHESIOLOGIST AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE TO APPROVE.

15.b Commissioner Shawn Wood, District 3

Commissioner Wood stated mega reunions are huge and doing events like that will bring kids back to the community.

Commissioner Wood mentioned the clinic and a standalone Doctor's office in Chattahoochee. He stated the doctor said he would \$40 doctors visit with or without insurance per visit if he can get indigent funding.

Commissioner Simpkins stated they would all need to come to the table with all the clinics and/or doctors that are providing those services all over this County so that we can take care of everybody.

Commissioner Wood mentioned Dr. Cooksey meeting with the Health Department/Health Care Professionals and coming up with plan.

Commissioner Wood wanted them to co-exist with City of Chattahoochee in the capacity of having someone in Chattahoochee 2 days a week to help with Building Permits, planning & zoning, and the VA so they can have a teleconference and pay with a credit card to be able to do what they need to do to deal with the County.

Commissioner Wood mentioned the Sawdust Park, and said the community wants a building at the park for events. Somewhere they can have functions to get out the weather.

Commissioner Wood stated he would love to hear from students to know what the students think they need to do to make the school better.

Commissioner Green stepped out at 7:31 p.m.

Commissioner Green returned at 7:35 p.m.

Commissioner Simpkins stepped out at 7:39 p.m.

15.c Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt stated she needs a list of all the roads that have work done, and the roads that need work to evaluate where they are.

Commissioner Holt stated she would like to have 1 Saturday a month that residence can take their trash to the dump instead of putting it by the side of the road to be collected cause it looks trashy when that's done.

Commissioner Simpkins returned at 7:41 p.m.

Commissioner Holt stated the St. John Park still needs a restroom.

Commissioner Holt asked what the plan with economic development was, and how are they going to get money into economic development.

Commissioner Holt mentioned how Tourist Development Council used to be when she first joined the committee, and how much better it is now.

15.d Commissioner Ronterious Green, Vice-Chair, District 5

Commissioner Green stated Commissioner Simpkins had mentioned an approval for signage in county offices and he did not want to hear back from the Clerk's office that they did not do the appropriate motion for this so he asked if they wanted to do a motion on this.

Commissioner Green stated there will be a golf cart Christmas parade at 6p.m. on December 14 at Ingrams Marina, and a chili cook-off.

Commissioner Wood stepped out at 8:02 p.m.

Commissioner Green stated lightning in the community is a problem, and there needs to be more, especially on the roads.

Commissioner Green mentioned the boys & girls club, and asked Mr. Williams to expand on where they are at with this.

Commissioner Wood returned at 8:03 p.m.

Mr. Williams stated they started review on the contract, and it is a pretty extensive contract. He also stated he doesn't believe there is an issue with funding and plans on having draft out next week for the City attorney to review.

Commissioner Green mentioned process with County Administrator. He stated he wants to make sure they have a fair process this go around to make sure we get the best candidate we can get for this County.

Commissioner Green stated to make sure shelters are readily available due to cold weather, as some of the community does not have a warm place to sleep.

15.e Commissioner Eric F. Hinson, Chairman, District 1

Chair Hinson stated they need to advertise for the County Administrator position, and asked Mr. Morris if it was advertised. Mr. Morris stated the position has not been advertised.

Commissioner Simpkins stated they need to discuss the process, and she would like for the community to be involved in the decision.

Chair Hinson stated they should have a workshop on the process for hiring the County Administrator.

Commissioner Wood stated when they start the process, they need to do the process, as he did not like how the process went down with the county attorney.

Chair Hinson requested a proclamation for doctor Mark Newberry's retirement.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR DOCTOR MARK NEWBERRY'S RETIREMENT AND COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE THE SECOND. BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE TO APPROVE.

16. Motion to Adjourn

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HINSON DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:23 PM.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**Eric F. Hinson, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk