

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON DECEMBER 17, 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 6p.m and led into Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

**4.   Amendments to the Agenda**

Mr. Morris stated the below amendments and requested to pull items 11.d, Approval to issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the sale/lease and/or redevelopment of a County-owned parcel through competitive bid solicitation, and 11.h., Approval to Invoice for Capital City Classic Corporate Sponsorship

Mr. Morris requested to pull 7.g, Approval of Maintenance/ Right of Way Control Maps for Hanna Millpond Bridge for discussion.

Request to be added under Consent: 7.k. Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Liens and Contracts - State Housing Initiative Partnership Program (SHIP) – ARPA Funds Program

Request to be added under General Business: 11.g. Approval to Continue the Investigation of the Sale of County Vehicles 11.h. Approval of Invoice for Capital City Classic Corporate Sponsorship

**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.**

**5.   Approval of Agenda**

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

**6. Awards, Presentations, and Appearances**

6a. Recognition of Presiding Elder Tan Moss

Board presented recognition to Presiding Elder Tan Moss.

6b. Recognition of Mark Newberry, MD

Mark Newberry was not present at the meeting.

6c. CareerSource Capital Region Presentation:  
(Jim McShane, CEO CareerSource Capital Region)

**Jim McShane, CEO CareerSource**, appeared before the board and provided presentation.

**Jevan Matthews, CareerSource**, appeared before the board and spoke about what's happening with this program year in Gadsden County with CareerSource.

Jim McShane mentioned the Summer Youth Program and how happy he is with Gadsden County and the program itself.

**7. Consent**

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

7a. Ratification Memo

7b. BOCC Meeting/Workshop Minutes:

1. December 2, 2024, Regular BOCC Meeting

7c. Approval of the 2025 BOCC Meeting Calendar

7d. Acceptance of Grant Award from the Department of Financial Services

7e. Acceptance of the Florida Firefighter Assistance Grant

7f. Acceptance of the MIH Model Communities Project Funding

7g. Approval of Maintenance/ Right of Way Control Maps for Hanna Millpond Bridge

7h. Approval of Off-System Bridge Project Agreement and Resolution

7i. Transfer of Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems (OSTDS) Property

7j. Approval to accept the Emergency Management Performance Grant Agreement #G0517

7K. Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Liens and Contracts – SHIP – ARPA Funds Program

**8. Items Pulled for Discussion**

**7.g Approval of Maintenance/ Right of Way Control Maps for Hanna Millpond Bridge**

Mr. Williams stated this Agenda item needed to be modified due to a scrivener's issue.

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

**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](mailto: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](http://www.gadsdencountyfl.gov).

Chair Hinson read aloud the above statement.

*Commissioner Wood stepped out at 6:35 p.m.*

**Bishop Willie Green, 296 Bradwell Road Quincy, FL**

**Charles Williams, 145 Burns Road**

Charles Williams appeared before the board to discuss Mississippi trip that he attended. He requested that the board work with whoever may want to bring business to the County because it was expensive for the infrastructure.

*Commissioner Wood returned at 6:37 p.m.*

**Kate MacFall, 1206 Walton Dr. Tallahassee, FL**

Kate MacFall appeared before the board to discuss animal services. She applauded the county in recent improvements and was excited to partner with them. She stated she would like to see an adoption program and there was more work to be done.

Commissioner Hinson asked how animals and mental health is a direct correlation. Ms. MacFall responded by saying there is a huge connection.

**Derrick Elias, 233 Cheeseborough Ave**

Derrick Elias appeared before the board. He asked about the status for negotiations relating to fire contract.

Mr. Elias asked about speaker forms needing to be turned in by 6 p.m. and if there was a reason for that. Chair Hinson stated they were making sure to maintain order and not let it get out of hand, and citizens could also email their comments if they could not make it.

**Lori Bouie, 816 Hardin St Quincy, FL 32352**

Lori Bouie appeared before the board and encouraged them to do the Mississippi trip again. She said she had an incredible time on the trip.

Ms. Bouie also stated they should do the trip at least annually, but bi-annual would be better.

**Mr. Simmons**

Mr. Simmons appeared before the board and stated they need economic development group that meets regularly in Gadsden County. Chair Hinson stated they did that before, and they will do it again.

**10. Public Hearing**

**11. General Business**

**11a. Approval to Develop and Issue Procurements Seeking a Professional Architectural Firm and a Professional Construction Project Management Firm for the State-Funded Public Safety and EOC Project**

Mr. Morris presented the above item. This agenda item seeks Board approval to develop and issue procurements seeking a professional architectural firm and a professional construction project management firm for the state-funded Public Safety and EOC project.

Mr. Morris stated since 2019, the County has been awarded \$17,104,105.00 in state funding for designing and constructing a Public Safety Facility and an Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The funds have been awarded through four grant agreements. He stated the State requires the County to go after procurement, and there must be an RFQ for the professional architect, and the RFP would be for the professional construction project management firm.

**Tracey Stallworth, PO BOX 1339 Quincy, FL** appeared before the board. Chair Hinson stated they would finish item 11.a first then will go back to Mr. Stallworth.

Commissioner Wood thanked Mr. Morris for stepping up and taking care of things in a timely manner.

**COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 ON THIS ITEM AND  
COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.**

Tracey Stallworth, PO BOX 1339 Quincy, FL appeared before the board. Mr. Stallworth mentioned the security officer killed in the internet cafe and asked about an ordinance to protect people.

Mr. Stallworth asked what the Boards plan is for next 5-10 years for Gadsden County. He asked if there are any plans for the homeless and people with substance abuse.

Mr. Stallworth asked Mr. Williams about an ordinance being crafted against internet cafes. Chair Hinson stated that they can't trump a statute, and this was a law enforcement issue.

**11b. Approval of Applying for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant**

Mr. Morris presented the above item. This item seeks the Board approval to apply for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) for the Gadsden County Fire Service.

Mr. Morris stated the primary goal of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) is to meet the firefighting and emergency response needs of the fire departments and nonaffiliated emergency medical service organizations. Since 2001, AFG has helped firefighters and other first responders to obtain critically needed equipment, protective gear, emergency vehicles, training, and other resources needed to protect the public and emergency personnel from fire and related hazards.

Mr. Morris stated this grant will apply for 15 full sets of firefighter bunker gear for a total of \$66k, the cascade field system to fill SCBA bottles for a total of \$53k, and a new fire truck for a total of \$650k. This is a cost share match grant, and the match is \$77, 080.30.

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

**11c. Approval of Resolution 2025-012 Grant Budget Amendment for FY2025**

Mr. Morris presented the above item. This agenda item seeks the Board approval of Resolution 2025-012 and authorization for the County Administrator and Finance Director to complete and execute all budget amendments necessary to maintain a balanced budget for Fiscal Year 2025 BOCC budget.

Commissioner Wood asked if Ms. Harris was able to get this done and Mr. Morris stated they need to be spent by December 31<sup>st</sup> and it could affect that depending on the changes they make.

Commissioner Simpkins stated it just needed to be obligated by December 31<sup>st</sup>, not spent. She also mentioned the invoice from the Clerk's request.

Commissioner Green asked Ms. Harris if she has had conversation with the Clerk. Janice Harris appeared before the board and stated the Clerk was requesting to pay the lease on some equipment, and it is over the \$100k.

Commissioner Holt asked if Ms. Harris had received a purchase order from the Clerk, and Ms. Harris stated no, but she did receive a quote. Commissioner Holt then stated it should have been in his budget.

Commissioner Simpkins stated some of the Clerk's requests were not granted as they did not grant some of his initial requests, so it is not in his budget.

Ms. Harris stated quote for licenses was \$13k and the Clerk wanted to use the balance to pay that.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if it was for the cyber security and Ms. Harris stated no.

Commissioner Green stated it would be nice to have someone from the Clerk's office regarding this item as they have questions.

Chair Hinson mentioned lighting in Gadsden County. Commissioner Simpkins stated Mr. Morris was in conversation with Talquin regarding lighting, and Mr. Morris stated yes, he is and even has a meeting scheduled with DOT.

Commissioner Wood mentioned volunteer fire as a discretionary, and Ms. Harris stated it needs to be obligated to a specific item.

Ms. Morris stated they are requesting permission to move the funds not utilized to the EMS Salary.

Ms. Harris requested to include in their motion to approve the spending plan and if not spent, the funds can be moved to EMS salary.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 FOR THE SPENDING PLAN; IF NOT SPENT, THE FUNDS CAN BE MOVED TO EMS SALARIES AND COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.**

~~11d. Approval to issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the sale/lease and/or redevelopment of a County owned parcel through competitive bid solicitation~~  
Item pulled.

**11e. Approval to use Economic Development – Economic Incentive funding to support Gadsden County Main Street Organizations Chattahoochee, Havana, and Quincy**

Mr. Morris presented the above item. This agenda item seeks Board approval to provide a total of \$37,500 in Department of Economic Development, Economic Incentive funding to support the coordinating Main Street organizations established within Gadsden County which are nationally, and state-accredited organizations dedicated to creating high-quality places and building stronger communities through preservation based economic development.

T.J. Lewis appeared before the board to provide a presentation. He stated they are seeking board approval to provide \$37, 500.

Commissioner Simpkins thanked Quincy Main Street for the work they do in our community.

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

**11f. Approval of a One-Time Employee Bonus for Eligible Staff**

Mr. Morris presented the above item. This item seeks Board discussion and approval for approval of a one-time employee bonus for eligible Board of County Commissioners staff.

*Commissioner Simpkins stepped out at 7:55 p.m.*

*Commissioner Simpkins returned at 7:56 p.m.*

Commissioner Simpkins stated she could not go with the bonus as she was under the assumption that they were looking at pay raises.

Commissioner Green asked for clarity from Mr. Morris on how they have this extra funding. Janice Harris appeared and stated they have enough in the budget if they go with Option A, \$750, without going into reserve. Commissioner Green stated he did not want to go into the reserve.

Commissioner Wood stated he would like to bring this item back to see what else they could do; he would like more clarity on this item.

Commissioner Green stated there was no need to rationally vote on this tonight; it was not time sensitive. He stated they could not just throw out numbers without knowing what it will all equal to.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE A ONE-TIME BONUS OF \$750 AND  
COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO  
APPROVE.**

**11g. Approval to Continue the Investigation of the Sale of County Vehicles**

Mr. Morris presented this item and stated they need approval for an internal investigation. They still want to seek an outside source for the internal investigation.

Derrick Elias appeared and asked how long does it take to investigate; it has already been 4 or 5 weeks. He asked if the board approved to sell the vehicles and if the auction was advertised. He also asked if vehicles were ever disposed of in this manner.

Mr. Williams stated this was an ongoing investigation and it was better to not comment on it. Commissioner Green asked for the status and how long this will last. Mr. Morris stated he spoke with FDLE today; probably until the end of January to complete the investigation.

Commissioner Green asked for the timeframe for the internal investigation, not the FDLE part. Mr. Morris stated staff was given direction to halt the investigation and turn it over to FDLE. Commissioner Holt stated they do not need to discuss this, just vote.

Mr. Williams stated FDLE could not do an administrative investigation; the item had to be brought to approve the internal investigation.

**COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS ITEM FOR 2 WEEKS AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**Lori Bouie, PO BOX 77 Quincy, FL** appeared and suggested for HR to reach out to agencies.

*Commissioner Wood stepped out at 8:49 p.m.*

**11h. Approval to Invoice for Capital City Classic Corporate Sponsorship**

Item pulled.

**12. Clerk of Court**

No updates.

**13. County Attorney**

No updates.

**14. County Administrator**

Mr. Morris mentioned brunch for seniors and a Quincy Christmas parade on Friday.

*Commissioner Wood returned at 8:50 p.m.*

**15. Discussion Items by Commissioners**

**15a. Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2**

Commissioner Simpkins requested tents at Fontana Trail on January 1.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she wants them to get out of doing things spur of the moment. She does not want them to always be in emergency mode.

**COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION TO RECOGNIZE THE GADSDEN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**15b. Commissioner Shawn Wood, District 3**

Commissioner Wood stated he would like a meeting with City Recreation and have a round-table.



**15c. Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4**

Commissioner Holt mentioned roads and Mr. Morris stated he emailed the report to her. She asked for the status on a grant writer. Mr. Morris stated it was advertised. Commissioner Holt mentioned that they need another building inspector.

**15d. Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5**

Commissioner Green asked about the memorial for the drowning victims at Lake Talquin. Mr. Morris stated they were waiting on family response but they have gone forward with the plaque.

Commissioner Green mentioned Strong Road and requested an observation due to breakage.

**COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO ADD A PRESENTATION BY DEMETRIUS BLOCKER ON THE JANUARY 21 REGULAR MEETING AND CHAIR HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.**

Commissioner Green asked about the Boys & Girls Club. Mr. Williams stated they were still working on an agreement and there are no issues about funds being in jeopardy. The goal was to get it on the second meeting in January.

**COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO HAVE DECEMBER 23 OFF AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

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

**16. Motion to Adjourn**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HINSON DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:38 PM.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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

**ATTEST:**

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**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**