

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR  
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON MARCH 4,  
2025 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, Assistant County Administrator  
Louis Baptiste, Interim County Attorney  
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk  
Leann Jinks, Clerk Secretary

**1. Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**4. Amendments to the Agenda**

No amendments.

**5. Approval of Agenda**

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED AND COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Chair Hinson stated Vice-Chair Green was online.

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

**7. Consent**

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

**7.a Ratification Memo**

**7.b BOCC Meeting/Workshop Minutes:**

1. January 30, 2025, Legislative Priorities Workshop
2. February 4, 2025, Regular Meeting
3. February 7, 2025, Special Meeting

**7.c Approval of CEI Task Work Order for Cane Creek Bridge**

**7.d Approval of FY25 Small County Consolidated Waste Grant Amendment #1**

**7.e – Florida Sun Trail Agreement with Florida Department of Transportation**

**7.f – Approval of Task Order with CSI Contracting, Inc. to Renovate and Repair the Gadsden County Senior Center**

**7.g – Amendment of Mosquito Control Certified Budget and Detailed Work Plan Budget FY2024-2025**

**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](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.

**Pastor Kenneth Frame, 120 McArthur St. Quincy, FL**

Pastor Kenneth Frame appeared before the board and asked them to adopt his poem.

Commissioner Green stated he did come to a meeting before and presented the poem. He was hoping they adopt the poem.

Pastor Frame read aloud his poem. Commissioner Holt mentioned that it would be great to include it with tourism.

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

Ms. MacFall appeared before the board to discuss animal services. She was hoping they consider a new or different location for animal services that feels more inviting. She thanked the county for what they have done.

**10. Public Hearing**

**10.a First Public Hearing: Public Comments and Input; CDBG Recovery Housing Program Grant - \$100,000,000.00**

Mr. Morris stated they have a presentation from the SHIP department and also Andy Easton, Easton and Associates, CDBG Grant Administrator.

Mr. Baptiste stated there needs to be a motion that comments made under public comments regarding the housing department should have been made under public hearing.

Commissioner Holt asked what was required to get the grant. Ms. Burns stated they need the approval.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR ALL PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING THE SHIP/HOUSING PROGRAM BE MOVED TO PUBLIC HEARING. COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE THE SECOND AND THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.**

**Helen Jackson, 2040 Flagler St. Quincy, FL**

Ms. Jackson appeared before the board to discuss housing. She thought the county should allow them to get the funding, the department has done what nobody else has. Ms. Jackson stated she has experienced flooding and the city has not done anything for her. The county stepped up and did things to her house that needed to be done for years. She stated the staff was wonderful and are doing the things needed to be done.

**Ewayna James, 11 James Cr Quincy, FL**

Ms. James appeared before the board to discuss the housing department. She had her house re-modeled by them and has it looking brand new. She asked them to please find more funding for this. She thanked them for everything they have done.

**Cynthia Reynolds, 1087 Selman Rd. Quincy, FL**

Ms. Reynolds appeared before the board and stated she was here on behalf of her mother, Ernestine Jenkins, who lives at 93 Jenkins Place Quincy, Florida. She wanted the county to give the funds to housing department because they have made a difference in her mother's quality of life. They repaired her bathroom and also put in a ramp.

Chair Hinson stated the board never suggested to stop funding for housing. Last year, he suggested \$500,000. Commissioner Holt stated they testified so they could keep getting grants.

Sonya Burns, SHIP Housing Coordinator, appeared before the board. She mentioned this was due tomorrow, March 5 by 5 p.m.; the staff learned about this grant less than 10 days ago. She stated the amount of the grant is \$1,287,500.00.

Andy Easton, CDBG Grant Administrator, appeared before the board. He stated this was for temporary housing for people in substance abuse programs; it was a great project.

Commissioner Wood asked about the cost to the county. Mr. Easton stated the cost would be maintenance, being the landlord, basically. He stated there is no administration cost in this grant, unlike normal CDBG grants.

Ms. Burns stated they do plan to have a round-table with the commissioners once this grant was submitted. She also mentioned another grant for housing that is due May 2<sup>nd</sup>. They were eligible to apply and asked them for their blessing to go after it.

**COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE ITEM 10.A AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**11. General Business**

**11.a Board Direction for Low-Boy Replacement**

Mr. Morris presented the above item. He stated the Public Works department does not have a Low-Boy, and are not able to move heavy equipment from one place to another. They were looking to either purchase or rent a Low-Boy. They were going to have to come back to let the board know the cost of it. Right now, they are asking for permission to go look for one.

Commissioner Simpkins stated it was going to require a transfer of funds as there is no budget in Public Works. Mr. Morris stated they would have to come back with a budget amendment. Commissioner Simpkins requested to know where the funds are coming from before agreeing to this.

Commissioner Holt asked about the total cost. Mr. Young stated \$200,000 with the one they were looking at.

**COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION FOR THEM TO LOOK AT COSTS OF A LOW-BOY, BRING IT BACK TO THE BOARD, ALONG WITH WHERE THE ALLOCATION OF FUNDS WILL BE COMING FROM. COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND AND THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.**

Attorney Baptiste stated when speaking with the Clerk's office, if the board were to pass the motion in the current form, they would probably run into a problem with the Clerk's office. The County has had issues with getting things processed. From his understanding, the Clerk's office requests that an agenda item to pass with a budget line item.

Chair Hinson asked Mr. Young to let the public know what a Low-Boy is and its importance. Mr. Young stated it is a semi-truck to haul heavy equipment.

**11.b Approval of Gadsden County Indigent Burial Service Provider**

Mr. Morris presented the above item. He stated there has is a deceased homeless person in the county.

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

**11.c Approval of the Florida Commerce Agreement BB219 Awarding the County Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000) to Renovate a County-owned Building Located at 604 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, City of Havana to Provide a Telehealth and Career Center, and Approval for Staff to Negotiate a Work Authorization with CRA for the Architectural and Engineering Services**

Mr. Morris presented the above item.

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

Mr. Morris expanded on item.

**11.d Approval of New HRIS System (UKG) and Setup Fee**

Mr. Morris presented the above item.

Attorney Baptiste mentioned that this would fall under master's service agreement; it was legal to not to do RFP.

Jaime Haskins from UKG appeared to provide a presentation.

Mr. Morris mentioned that he would not put an item on the agenda if they could not address it. Commissioner Simpkins stated this would need to come back in the next budget cycle.

Ms. Burroughs appeared and stated the purpose of this was to be more efficient and compliant with state and federal regulations.

Commissioner Wood stated it was a lot of money and it is for 5 years.

Attorney Baptiste read the contractual language; the county has the ability to exit relationship. The County is paying an upfront fee that is normally non-refundable.

Commissioner Green stated he would like to move forward with this.

Chair Hinson stated he was impressed with this but when a commissioner has heartburns, it was best to wait on it.

**COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE THIS ITEM AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 2-3 AND THE MOTION FAILED.**

Chair Hinson thought they should table this and mentioned a workshop.

**12. Clerk of Court**

No updates.

Chair Hinson stated he wanted to bring up issues that the Clerk has talked about and mentioned a workshop on it.

**13. Interim County Attorney**

Attorney Baptiste mentioned they have active litigation going on and is working on those cases. He passed around a copy of a Leon County ordinance that allows the interim county attorney to retain professional services of other lawyers for legal matters. He was going to add it into the next meeting's agenda for the board's approval.

Mr. Baptiste requested a motion to give him the authority to address the situation of employees on paid leave and to work with the HR director outside of the County Administrator's office.

**COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO GIVE THE INTERIM COUNTY ATTORNEY THE AUTHORITY TO ADDRESS THE SITUATION OF EMPLOYEES ON PAID LEAVE AND TO WORK WITH THE HR DIRECTOR OUTSIDE OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATORS' OFFICE. COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE THE SECOND AND THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.**

Commissioner Holt suggested to consider the fact that they did not complete an investigation.

**14. Interim County Administrator**

Mr. Morris mentioned the calendar that was given out showing the workshops they have scheduled.

Commissioner Simpkins requested for workshops to begin at 6 p.m.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE MOTION FOR THE WORKSHOPS TO START AT 5:30 P.M. AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 2-3 AND THE MOTION FAILED.**

**COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE THE MOTION FOR THE WORKSHOPS TO START AT 6 P.M. AND COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 TO APPROVE.**

The workshop with Boys & Girls Club was rescheduled to March 10.

**15. Discussion Items by Commissioners**

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

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned the county website and requested to add tab "Who is my commissioner?" She also requested for the Zoom link to meetings be more visible to the public.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned the hazardous drop off and would like it available for Saturday for people that work. Mr. Morris stated he did request with Public Works to have this on Saturday as well. Mr. Young appeared and stated they will have it Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Commissioner Simpkins stated there will be smoke detector installations in the St. Hebrew community; they can contact herself or Ms. Whaley if someone needs it installed.

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

Commissioner Wood stated the program with the Sheriff was successful and 25 cameras were set out.

Commissioner Wood stated as they look at the next budget, he was hoping first responders become a priority.

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

Commissioner Holt requested a proclamation for Ruby Bradley's 106<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR RUBY BRADLEY TURNING 106 YEARS OLD AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.**

Commissioner Holt wanted a workshop on non-profits. Chair Hinson stated they need to be conservative on how they spend this year. Commissioner Holt stated she was not talking about spending money; she just wanted a process in place.

Commissioner Holt mentioned the large item drop off and stated they should be taken to the dump.

Kembrew Jackson appeared and stated the purpose for the software for HR was for consistency across the board.

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

Commissioner Green asked about the lease for the Boys & Girls Club. Attorney Baptiste stated the lease was still processing, his goal was to get it done by that meeting, March 10. He stated the version of the contract he received had notes from 8 months ago and that was a delay. His goal was to get a draft that the City of Quincy can approve of.

**COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR LAUREN COLLINS AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.**

**COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR MS. DAVIS AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.**

**COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR DONTRELL HALL AND COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.**

Commissioner Green asked about the \$5,000 donation to Crossroad Academy and if it could come out of the administrator's budget without having to come back for a vote. Attorney Baptiste stated he has not reviewed the minutes about limiting funds that the administrator could expend. He will get with the interim administrator and finance. If any issue, he will ask that it be placed on the agenda for March 18.

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

Chair Hinson requested a motion for proclamation for 2025 Havana North Side High Mega Reunion.

**COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR 2025 HAVANA NORTH SIDE HIGH MEGA REUNION AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.**

Commissioner Hinson mentioned bulky item pick-up is for unincorporated areas and starts March 31- April 3 for district 1. The following week will be district 2 and so on.

**16. Motion to Adjourn**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HINSON  
DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:46 PM.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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

**ATTEST:**

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**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**