

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON MARCH 18,
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 A. Holt, District 4
 Roosevelt Morris, Interim County Administrator
 Louis Baptiste, Interim County Attorney
 Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk
 Leann Jinks, Deputy Clerk

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 Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Amendments to the Agenda

Commissioner Green stated they should move item 11.f up to 11.a, so as to not keep the seniors waiting.

**COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO MOVE ITEM 11.F TO ITEM 11.A AND
COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.**

Attorney Baptiste recommended to pull item 11.f, Approval of Payment to Be Dispersed to the Gadsden County Senior Center Foundation. He mentioned an email from the Clerk. What was stated in the email could mean a crime; the board has the right to review all finances.

Mr. Baptiste stated the audit is currently being done for Gadsden Senior Foundation and he advised to wait for the results.

Commissioner Green stated they can follow the advice of the attorney; however, they do need to hear the senior citizens speak.

Commissioner Holt stated the seniors are already here and have the right to speak. Mr. Baptiste stated the citizens can speak, he just requested to pull that item. Commissioner Holt stated the accusation made by the clerk should have been done prior.

Commissioner Green stated when the clerk sent the email, he based it on what he thought with no legal terminology or statute.

Commissioner Green mentioned having an emergency meeting on this. He asked how long for this allegation investigation. Mr. Baptiste stated an audit is currently underway and will find out the timeline.

Commissioner Simpkins stated they have \$700,000 budget for the 3 senior centers; the commission is not holding money from the seniors. The \$15,000 that was allocated to Gadsden Wellness Center back in February was not a part of the \$700,000 budget. Tonight's item was in regards to a portion of funds for the non-profit through their Elderly Affairs Gadsden Senior Foundation.

Mr. Baptiste stated the only motion on the floor was Commissioner Holt's, which was second by Commissioner Wood. The motion failed since Commissioner Wood withdrew his second. As of now, there is no motion on the floor. Chair Hinson stated they will move forward.

Commissioner Green stated they can pull item 11.f, he just wanted to make sure the seniors get a chance to speak. He stated they approved the funding for the non-profit that they have not received.

5. Approval of Agenda

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

6. Awards, Presentations, and Appearances

7. Consent

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

7.a Ratification Memo

7.b BOCC Meeting/ Workshop Minutes

7.b.1. - February 18, 2025, Regular Meeting

7.c Approval of Appointments to the Public Safety Coordinating Council

7.d Approval to Pay United Rentals \$43,744.00 for the Emergency Rental of a Chiller to Cool the Jail

7.e City of Midway Animal Control Inter-Local Agreement

7.f Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Liens and Contracts - ARPA Funds and State Housing Initiative Partnership Program (SHIP) Programs

7.g Approval and Signature(s) for Satisfaction of Special Assessment Lien

7.h Approval of Local Agency (LAP) contract for South Adams Street Project between Gadsden County and Sandco, LLC.

7.i Reinstatement and Adjustment of Annual Leave for Interim County Administrator

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 the above statement.

Charles Morris, 23201 Blue Star Hwy

Mr. Morris stated he was there on behalf of United Gadsden Incorporated. He wanted to provide an overview of their proposed guidelines for submitting grant requests.

Attorney Baptiste mentioned an ordinance and for there to be no discussion by commissioners under citizens to be heard.

Reginald Cunningham, 329 Robinson Dr. Quincy, FL

Mr. Cunningham appeared to talk about the Gadsden Senior Foundation.

Gwen Parker, 405 Fox Fire Ct Quincy, FL

Ms. Parker appeared before the board to talk about Gadsden Senior Foundation.

Evelyn Alexis, 944 Strong Rd. Quincy, FL

Ms. Alexis appeared to talk about Gadsden senior foundation.

Dannie McMillan, P.O. Box 1196 Havana, FL

Ms. McMillan appeared to talk about Gadsden senior foundation.

Everline Brown, P.O. Box 32332 Chattahoochee, FL

Ms. Brown appeared to talk about Gadsden senior foundation.

10. Public Hearing

11. General Business

11.a Funding Request for Dr. Camron Browning

Mr. Morris presented the above item. This agenda item seeks Board approval for a funding request for Dr. Camron Browning.

Mr. Baptiste stated he did not believe funds can be expended through indigent funds after reviewing the ordinances.

Commissioner Green thought this item being on the agenda was premature.

Commissioner Holt stated she was not in favor of the amount of money being requested.

Commissioner Wood stated he thinks this doctor's office is vital, but stated he agreed with Commissioner Holt on the sticker shock of the money request.

Chair Hinson called a 5-minute recess at 7:05 p.m.

Chair Hinson resumed meeting at 7:11 p.m.

Commissioner Green stated his biggest issue was the funding source considering Mr. Baptiste stated the funds can't come from the indigent fund.

Mayor Protem, 105 NE 7th Avenue, Havana

Mr. Protem appeared before the board in support of funding for Dr. Browning.

Dr. Browning appeared before the board. Stated he was asking for commitment from the board in order for the clinic to have stability.

Chair Hinson stated he wants to make the commitment but not approve anything yet.

Mr. Baptiste stated the funding could not come from indigent fund; The county can commit that amount of money and direct staff to provide funding source.

Chair Hinson stated to bring the item back next meeting.

11.b Board Direction Regarding Appointments/Reappointments of Board Members to the Gadsden Hospital, Inc. Board of Directors

Mr. Morris presented the above item. This agenda item seeks Board direction regarding the appointments/reappointments to the Gadsden Hospital Inc. Board of Directors.

Commissioner Green stepped out at 8:04 p.m.

Chair Hinson stated he thought the board was dissolved already.

Commissioner Wood stepped out at 8:06 p.m. and returned at 8:07 p.m.

Commissioner Green returned at 8:07 p.m.

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION TO ADVERTISE FOR HOSPITAL BOARD FOR CITIZENS INTERESTED IN SERVING AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE TO APPROVE.

Laurel Bradley appeared before the board and stated expired in May, need new members.

11.c Approval of Resolution 2025-024 Grant Budget Amendment for FY2025

Mr. Morris presented the above item. This agenda item is presented to the Board for approval of Resolution 2025-024 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 SIMPKINS 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 Approval to Utilize District 1 Paving Funds for the Resurfacing of Frank Pais Road

Mr. Morris presented the above item. This agenda item is presented to the Board for approval of the asphalt resurfacing project for Frank Pais Road in District 1, funded through District 1 paving funds. The project entails applying 1.5 inches of asphalt to improve the road's durability, safety, and overall condition. As of December 2024, the paving fund balance for District 1 was \$204,198.07.

Curtis Young appeared and stated they wanted to go with Peavy and Sons.

Debra Robinson, 380 Frank Pais Rd.

Ms. Robinson appeared before the board asking to approve this item.

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

11.e Approval of the Gadsden County Citizen Review Committee Plan and Appointees to Assist in the Hiring of the County Administrator

Mr. Morris presented this item. This agenda item is due to the County being in the process of selecting the next County Administrator. This document outlines the structured, transparent application review process that incorporates Board directives, including involving citizens and Constitutional Officers as part of the selection panel.

Mr. Baptiste stated several board members stated they would like the committee to have access to all applications.

Ms. Robinson and Ms. Goldwire appeared before the board.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if they were comfortable with the dates provided, and they stated yes that they submitted the dates.

Chair Hinson stated his 2 members were Davey Clay and Artevious Jackson.

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THIS ITEM INCLUDING THE ADDITION OF CHAIR HINSON'S 2 SELECTED MEMBERS AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

~~11.f Approval of Payment to Be Dispersed to the Gadsden County Senior Center Foundation~~
Item pulled.

12. Clerk of Court
No updates.

13. Interim County Attorney

Mr. Baptiste stated he had asked this board for permission to handle the situation of the employees on suspension. He stated HR completed 90% of investigation. Anyone remotely involved have been interviewed by HR. He stated the employees were informed of the decision today.

Commissioner Holt stated she thought they gave authority to the attorney retained with HR. Mr. Baptiste stated that at the last meeting, he asked the commission to give him authority over this matter. The vote was taken and was approved.

Commissioner Holt stated it should have been brought back to Mr. Morris, but she understood what Mr. Baptiste was saying. She stated they did not get the opportunity to see what the results were. Mr. Baptiste stated this board has no authority over day-to-day operations.

Mr. Baptiste stated Florida statute requires that if county property were to be sold, it has to be approved by the governmental unit, which would be defined as this board. He reviewed the Enterprise agreements thoroughly, which does not permit any county employee to sell county property. On October 26, 2024, Enterprise was not a party to that transaction. That auction has nothing to do with Enterprise.

Commissioner Wood stated it would benefit them to have a SHADE meeting. Mr. Baptiste stated there was no need for a SHADE meeting as there is no pending litigation.

Mr. Baptiste stated he will request a SHADE meeting regarding the former county attorney. The former county attorney has reached out to him and based on their conversation, he did believe that there is pending or threatening litigation.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION FOR A SHADE MEETING REGARDING THE FORMER COUNTY ATTORNEY AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

Mr. Baptiste stated they sent out a draft copy of the Boys and Girls Club agreement. It has not been sent to the City of Quincy yet and wanted direction if he could share that document with the city on behalf of the county.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO SEND THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB AGREEMENT TO THE CITY OF QUINCY AND COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Mr. Baptiste stated he shared a memorandum regarding the Gadsden Senior Foundation and will get that moving as quickly as possible. An audit is currently being done.

Commissioner Wood stepped out at 8:39 p.m. and returned at 8:40 p.m.

14. Interim County Administrator

No updates.

15. Discussion Items by Commissioners

15.a Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2

Commissioner Simpkins stated she would like a proclamation for Elizah Hutley.

Commissioner Green stepped out at 8:41 p.m.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned that the Big Bend rodeo received the recognition “rodeo of the year” and she wanted to recognize them.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned the Advanced Aces Organization and stated that they were requesting a certificate of recognition. She also wanted to request a resolution for them.

COMMISSIONER SIMPINS MADE A MOTION FOR THE ABOVE ITEMS AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she wanted to recognize volunteer firefighters. She stated they need to do something; more water is needed in the outlined areas.

Commissioner Simpkins also mentioned striping on Jaimeson Road and hoped they were getting somewhere with that.

April 19th - Planning family fun day in Havana from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

15.b Commissioner Shawn Wood, District 3

Commissioner Wood stated Mr. Morris met with fire chiefs.

Commissioner Wood mentioned the electric bill at cigar bar.

Commissioner Wood stated he would like to look at Corey Field and Joe Ferolito center to maybe purchase.

15.c Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt mentioned striping on Dewey Johnson Road.

Commissioner Holt mentioned on the 27th they will be having a community meeting, and stated she hoped all commissioners would be there.

Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Morris for an update on the EMS and Firetrucks GPS systems. Attorney Baptiste stated he had spoken with Mr. Morris and they intend to create an ordinance for this as there is not one in place at this time.

Commissioner Wood stated communication error with GPS.

Commissioner Holt mentioned invoice and issues with the Clerk.

15.d Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5

Commissioner Green mentioned speed bumps on Shiloh Road.

15.e Commissioner Eric F. Hinson, District 1

Chair mentioned bond and stated they need to jump on that quick; may be difficult to receive bond again.

16. Motion to Adjourn

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HINSON
DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:12 PM.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk