

AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON MARCH 28,
2025 AT 5:15 P.M., THE FOLLOWING
PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

Present: Eric F. Hinson, Chair, District 1
Ronterious Green, Vice-Chair, District 5, appeared online
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

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

Chair Hinson called the meeting to order and led into a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. **Amendments to the Agenda**

No amendments.

Commissioner Green appeared online.

5. **Approval of Agenda**

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

6. **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.

7. **General Business**

7.a **Cure of Prior Board Action – Reconsideration of Legal Services Contract with Attorney Thornton Williams of the Williams Law Group**

Louis Baptiste, Interim County Attorney, stated on February 4, the board voted to terminate the previous county attorney, Thornton Williams. At the last board meeting on March 16, the board voted to approve a SHADE Meeting. In preparing for the SHADE Meeting, he realized it was not an agenda item to terminate Attorney Williams. It could be a violation of Florida Sunshine 286.011. When this happens, they have a cure meeting. They are able to give notice to the public if they would like to make comments.

Attorney Baptiste stated he did reach out to the Chair, and the Chair reached out to the Interim Administrator, who then reached out to the commissioners through email; which is in compliance with the ordinance to ensure they were following the law.

Chair Hinson asked if there were any public comments and there were none. He asked for a motion but Commissioner Holt had a comment.

Commissioner Holt asked why the statute was not given earlier. Attorney Baptiste stated the purpose of this cure meeting was to ensure it was on the agenda and to allow public comments. Commissioner Holt stated the citizens did not get a chance to look at the statute.

Attorney Baptiste stated to be clear, he has not read any statute into the record. He extensively researched this issue and has looked at other cure meetings. The language he has taken was based on examples of what has been done throughout the state.

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION TO AFFIRM THE VOTE OF TERMINATING ATTORNEY THORNTON WILLIAMS LEGAL SERVICES CONTRACT. THE BOARD WENT INTO DISCUSSION.

Commissioner Holt stated they did not have time to look at this. That was her statement on this vote and that is why she votes no.

Commissioner Wood called the question but Commissioner Green had a comment. Commissioner Wood yielded to him. Commissioner Green asked if they were going to go back and do the same thing again regarding the termination of the previous administrator.

Attorney Baptiste stated that was not on the agenda tonight, so he did not think it was his prerogative to comment on this matter. He advised the board that since that is not on the agenda, to avoid any comments on this matter. If Commissioner Green would like, they could put it on the next meeting's agenda.

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION TO AFFIRM THE VOTE OF TERMINATING ATTORNEY THORNTON WILLIAMS CONTRACT. COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE THE SECOND AND THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 TO APPROVE.

Chair Hinson adjourned meeting but resumed due to a public comment. Tracey Stallworth appeared before the board.

8. **Motion to Adjourn**

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HINSON DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:35 PM.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk