

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON APRIL 1,
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, Assistant BOCC Secretary

1. Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

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

4. Amendments to the Agenda

Mr. Morris stated to add 11.g, Approval of task order for integrity group.

Mr. Morris requested to pull item 6.b, Recognition of the 2025 Havana Mega Reunion (Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners), and item 11.e, Board Direction for Gadsden County Road Striping Projects.

Commissioner Holt requested to add for discussion the healthcare bus, and the PAMS program.

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

5. Approval of Agenda

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

6. Awards, Presentations, and Appearances

6.a Recognition of the 2024 Big Bend Rodeo Awarded Rodeo of the Year by the Professional
Cowboys Association

Sharlee Whiddon appeared before the board and gave a brief description of the 2024 rodeo that received the recognition.

6.b Recognition of the 2025 Havana Mega Reunion (Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners)

Pulled.

6.c Recognition of Pastor Willie Lamb (Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners)

Pastor was not present, Chair Hinson stated they will recognize him at a later date.

7. Consent

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

7.a Ratification Memo

7.b BOCC Meeting/ Workshop Minutes

7.b.1. March 4, 2025, Regular Board Meeting

7.b.2. March 6, 2025, Advisory Committee Workshop

7.b.3. March 10, 2025, Boys & Girls Club Workshop

7.b.4. March 13, 2025, Health Services Workshop

7.b.5. March 17, 2025, Summer Youth Workshop

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

7.d Approval of the Finance Office to Process Payment to Fun Flicks for the Rental of the LED Screen Utilized at the Lake Talquin (18) Event

7.e Request for Monetary Support for the Relay for Life of Gadsden – American Cancer Society

7.f Approval of the Lease Agreement Renewal between the Gadsden County BOCC and the Marie Brooks Gallery, LLC for the building located at 11 W. Jefferson Street, Quincy, FL

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.

Derrick Elias, P.O. Box 2171 Quincy, FL

Mr. Elias appeared and asked when they would develop a fire agreement between the City of Quincy and the County.

Mr. Elias mentioned the boys & girls club.

Denise Browning, 4130 FL-GA Hwy

Tony Hannah, P.O. Box 481

10. Public Hearing

10.a Public Hearing: Approval of Resolution 2025-025 Budget Amendment for FY2025

Mr. Morris presented the above item. This agenda item seeks Board approval of Resolution 2025-025, and authorization for the Interim County Administrator and Finance Director to complete and execute all budget amendments necessary to maintain a balanced budget for Fiscal Year 2025 BOCC budget.

Chair Hinson asked if anyone from public would like to speak, and nobody came forward.

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

10.b Public Hearing: Public Comments and Input CDBG Recovery Housing Program Grant

Mr. Morris presented the above item. This agenda item is presented to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) to hold a Public Hearing during a regular scheduled BOCC meeting as required for grant application submittal to the Florida Department of Commerce.

Sonya Burns appeared to provide brief overview of the grant.

Andy Easton appeared and stated this was an advertised public hearing to explain what the grant is, as Ms. Burns explained already. It was also to ask the public if they had any comments on Community needs.

Chair Hinson asked if this should be done in the community or regular public meeting; Mr. Baptiste stated it should be done in the regular scheduled public meeting.

Commissioner Green asked if they could tell the needs from the meeting they already had from the public hearing, and Ms. Burns stated she did not have the needs request at this time, but she could provide that.

Ms. Burns stated the grant is due May 2nd, and the second public hearing is being held on April 15th.

Ms. Burns asked the board to give staff permission to apply for the CDBG grant.

Commissioner Green made a motion for options 1, 2, and 3 – Commissioner Green rescinded his motion.

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION TO GIVE ADMINISTRATOR AND STAFF AUTHORIZATION TO WRITE CDBG GRANT, AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE TO APPROVE.

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.

Commissioner Green asked Mr. Morris to tell where the funding is coming from; mentioned email from Clerk and stated it needed attention.

Chair Hinson stated Clerk questioned who Finance Director was and where funds were coming from.

Mr. Morris stated finance director was able to find money from summer youth program since the summer youth program had been reduced from 300 to 150 youth participants.

Commissioner Green stated they should be saving that money; would rather the money go into a pot than spend it.

Commissioner Wood stated they should have a closer relationship with the Clerk.

Chair Hinson stated this was a commitment to Dr. Browning.

Commissioner Holt stated her concerns with funding this as they had a healthcare workshop the week before and they have not gotten back to the providers that came and had requests.

Commissioner Wood stepped out at 6:38 p.m.

Commissioner Wood returned at 6:39 p.m.

Commissioner Green stated it would be unwise to vote without knowing the deliverables.

Commissioner Simpkins stated they had a workshop with all providers, and the providers stated their needs; they were not able to use indigent care funding for it.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if Mr. Baptiste spoke with Dr. Browning on deliverables and Baptiste stated yes.

Commissioner Simpkins stated it was not fair to hold this up, they need to just make a decision.

Shane Bozman, P.O. Box 2403 Havana, FL, Caroline Francis, K. Jones

In favor of approving item.

Denise Browning, Anthony Browning, 4130 FL-GA Hwy

In favor of approving item.

Yarnelle Matthis,

Hoped the board will approve this item, as she stated Dr. Browning saved her life and they need good quality healthcare in the county.

Mr. Baptiste stated they were approaching the time limit for this item.

Commissioner Holt stated she does want good healthcare but with no plan in place is what she has an issue with.

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION TO COMMIT FUNDING CONTINGENT UPON THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE COUNTY AND DR. BROWNING AND THE COMMISSION APPROVING THE CONTRACT AND COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER HOLT OPPOSED.

11.b Approval of the Summer Youth Application and Process

Mr. Morris presented the above item. This agenda item seeks Board approval for the 2025 Summer Youth Employment Program plan, which includes two potential start and end dates, program parameters, and associated costs. The program aims to provide job opportunities for students aged 14-19 who are residents of Gadsden County.

Commissioner Simpkins stepped out at 7:09 p.m.

Commissioner Simpkins returned at 7:10 p.m.

Commissioner Wood asked why they were paying youth \$15 per hour when minimum wage is \$13.

Chair Hinson stated it would make sense to go to \$13 an hour.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION FOR OPTION 1 WITH THE CHANGE OF \$13 AN HOUR INSTEAD OF \$15 AN HOUR AT 6 WEEKS AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE TO APPROVE.

11.c Approval to Confirm the Financial Director

This agenda item seeks Board confirmation of the appointment of Ms. Rose Raynak as the new Financial Director for the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners' Management Services Department.

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

Rose Raynak, Financial Director, appeared before the board and stated she had been looking over the budgets and presented a PowerPoint.

11.d Community Development / Housing Report and Funding Request

Mr. Morris presented the above item. This agenda item seeks (BOCC) approval of \$300,000.00 for housing rehabilitation and emergency repairs.

Sonya Burns appeared to provide an overview on the housing report.

Ms. Burns stated they have a funding request of \$300, 000 for housing rehabilitation and emergency repairs.

Mr. Morris stated they will find a funding source and bring it back to the board.

Ms. Burns stated the \$300k request is to pay the contractors for completed work, and to replace SHIP money that was used to match for USDA grants that have been applied for.

Mr. Baptiste stated Mr. Morris was asking to table the item as it still needs to come back for a budget amendment, so they need to make a motion and move on.

Commissioner Green asked Mr. Morris how soon they would be able to find the funding source; Mr. Morris stated by next meeting he should have identified a funding source.

Commissioner Simpkins asked what is the amount that is out right now; Ms. Burns stated they are asking for \$300k because of invoices that are to be paid that are about \$150k, and the funding to partner with USDA to clear up the 30-35 emergency applications.

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

~~11.e Board Direction for Gadsden County Road Striping Projects~~

Item pulled.

11.f Funding Request for North Florida Rural Health

Mr. Morris presented the above item. This agenda item seeks Board approval to provide funding to North Florida Rural Health Corporation.

Dr. Traci Thompson from North FL Rural Health appeared online via zoom to request a onetime \$300k to provide better services.

Commissioner Wood stepped out at 7:55 p.m.

Commissioner Wood returned at 7:56 p.m.

Commissioner Holt asked about the low-income pool.

Kyle Kwik from North FL Rural Health appeared online via zoom.

Chair Hinson asked for Clerk to bring all minutes regarding North FL Rural Health.

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

11.g Approval of Task Order for Integrity Group

Mr. Morris presented the above item. This agenda item is presented to the Board for approval of The Integrity Group's Task Order (TO) #2024-03.E1 for the continuation of FEMA Public Assistance Disaster Recovery and Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) F-ROC Abatement Services.

Commissioner Wood made a motion to approve the agenda item and Commissioner Holt made the second with discussion.

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

11.h Discussion of PAMS Program

Commissioner Holt stated she requested items be added to the agenda, but then was told Chair Hinson had removed said items, so she asked why Chair Hinson had the items removed from the agenda.

Chair Hinson stated it would only be fair to get all information first from clerk and then discuss it and that's why he had the items removed.

Mr. Baptiste stated he and Commissioner Holt had already talked on this subject and referenced the ordinance 2021-015.

Commissioner Green stepped out at 8:25 p.m.

Commissioner Green returned at 8:29 p.m.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR A WORKSHOP FOR THE PAMS PROGRAM AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE TO APPROVE.

11.i Discussion of Healthcare Bus

Commissioner Holt stated she wants a workshop on this.

Chair Hinson requested all minutes related to the Healthcare bus be provided to the board.

Commissioner Simpkins stated the bus is a great need, but there is a lot of confusion surrounding it.

Tony Hannah appeared before the board and spoke on the need of the healthcare bus.

Mr. Baptiste stated he will prepare memo regarding healthcare bus, PAMS program, and the health council.

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

12. Clerk of Court

No updates.

Commissioner Green stated would like for emails from clerk to be sent days before the meeting.

13. Interim County Attorney

Mr. Baptiste mentioned advisory committee meeting, and stated he took minutes for the meeting.

Mr. Baptiste stated the committee requests to look at all applications, as it was limited to only applications approved by Human Resources. He stated at this time Human Resources needed direction from the board on if the committee should receive all applications or just the 19.

Mr. Baptiste stated the Committee did not feel like they could pick 10 people to recommend from the 19 they have to pick from.

Mr. Baptiste stated committee would like the ability to interview the candidates before sending them to board.

Commissioner Green stated he was not in favor of the committee looking over 100 applications.

Commissioner Green stepped out at 9:06 p.m.

Commissioner Green returned at 9:07 p.m.

Mr. Baptiste stated citizen advisory committee will meet tomorrow and will have a formal vote regarding their requests and how they want to proceed with the process.

Commissioner Wood stepped out at 9:11 p.m.

Mr. Baptiste stated the county received the report from governor relating to the DOGE committee and he was asking for a motion to be made giving chair ability to sign letter drafted by staff responding to the governors' concerns.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO GIVE CHAIR HINSON THE ABILITY TO SIGN THE LETTER DRAFTED BY STAFF RESPONDING TO THE GOVERNORS' CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE TO APPROVE.

Mr. Baptiste mentioned the fire agreement and the boys & girls club contracts.

Mr. Baptiste mentioned SHADE meeting for threat of pending litigation, and he does intend to schedule it.

Commissioner Wood returned at 9:15 p.m.

14. Interim County Administrator

No updates.

15. Discussion Items by Commissioners

15.a Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned bulky item pick up in her district is on April 7th.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she is hosting a spring event on April 19th from 10-2 at the Havana community park.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she would like to schedule a time for the board to sit down and go over their strategic plan and setting smart goals.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned bonds and stated the federal government is talking about taking that away.

15.b Commissioner Shawn Wood, District 3

Commissioner Wood stated it bothers him the way people look and react when he tells people he is a commissioner, and he thinks it starts with the board and how they act. He stated they need to figure out how to be kind and courteous.

Commissioner Wood stated he is ready to get shovels in the ground for the list of projects they have.

Commissioner Wood stated if they are going to be successful, then it starts there with the board.

Commissioner Wood stated he didn't understand why some of the employees were required to attend meetings when the board didn't even talk about their area/department.

15.c Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt asked for clarity on putting items on agenda.

Mr. Baptiste stated based on the language of the ordinance; The county administrator shall provide a tentative agenda to Chair Hinson who shall then set the agenda for the board.

Commissioner Holt stated when she has employees coming to her about problems, she tells the employees to go the administrator, but when she has employees coming to her saying they have commissioners coming to them, then she tells them how to handle it in house and who they should go to. Commissioner Holt stated they as commissioners are not to be telling staff what to do.

Chair Hinson stated they can ask a staff member a question, they just cannot tell staff what to do.

15.d Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5

Commissioner Green mentioned Boys & Girls club contract and moving locations. Wanted to know the process. He was nervous about it funding wise.

Mr. Morris stated the grant states that the Boys & Girls club must be in City of Quincy.

Commissioner Green asked about the clearing of the 52-acre property and Mr. Morris stated it was just for appearance's sake.

Commissioner Green stated April 28-May 1 is the clean-up dates for district 5.

15.e Commissioner Eric F. Hinson, District 1

Chair Hinson mentioned having a meeting about bonds.

Chair Hinson stated he wanted to schedule a date for a board retreat.

Chair Hinson stated the bulky item pick up in district 1 is still going on but stops Thursday, and it is only in unincorporated areas.

Chair Hinson stated they had talked about Public Works being aloud to work four 10-hour days but wasn't sure where that stood, and Mr. Morris stated he gave direction to the Public Works director last month to be able to work four 10-hour days.

16. Motion to Adjourn

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HINSON
DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:51 PM.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk