

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON APRIL 15,
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

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

Chair Hinson called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Chair Hinson led into invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. **Amendments to the Agenda**

Mr. Morris stated the following amendments to the agenda:

Add item 7.f, Approval of the William S. Stevens COVID Shelter's Change Order No. 2, under Consent Agenda

Add item 11.e, Discussion Regarding the Citizens Advisory Committee, under General Business

Request to pull item 6.a, Recognition of the 2025 Havana Mega Reunion

Request to pull item 6.b, Recognition of Pastor Willie Lamb

5. **Approval of Agenda**

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED AND COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

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

6.a Recognition of the 2025 Havana Mega Reunion

6.b Recognition of Pastor Willie Lamb

6.c Presentation by the Gadsden County Sheriff's Office

Reginald James stated he was here to address mental health issues of the jail. He stated in the Gadsden County jail, 30% of them are affected. Mr. James stated Sheriff Young has taken a proactive approach to this situation and has applied for and awarded 5.6 million over the next 3

years to treat inmates suffering from mental health. His purpose here tonight was to announce this award.

Commissioner Simpkins appeared at 6:07 p.m.

Commissioner Green asked when would the first phase begin and Mr. James stated the beginning of May.

6.d Department of Elderly Affairs Presentation

Ms. Fryson appeared to provide a presentation regarding the Elderly Affairs department.

Chair Hinson asked if they receive federal/ state money and how much. Ms. Fryson stated they receive the Old American Act Grant in the total of 272k.

7. Consent

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

7.a Ratification Memo

7.b BOCC Meeting/Workshop Minutes

7.c Approval of Adding Gadsden County Public Health Department as a Participating Entity to the Fuel Services Inter-Local Agreement

7.d Approval of Funding Agreements for Human Services

7.e Approval of the Food Service Agreements for Human Services

7.f Approval of the William S. Stevens COVID Shelter's Change Order No. 2 to Extend the Substantial Completion Deadline to June 1, 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 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.

Kate MacFall, 1206 Walton Dr. Tallahassee, FL

Ms. MacFall appeared to discuss animal services.

Susan Cave, 484 Scott Circle Havana, FL

Ms. Cave appeared before the board.

10. Public Hearing

10.a Public Hearing: Second Public Hearing for Commissioners and Public Comments and Input for Grant Application Submittal to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity

Andy Easton appeared before the board.

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

10.b Public Hearing: Approval of Resolution 2025-029 and Associated Budget Amendment

Mr. Morris presented the above item.

Mr. Morris stated to Mr. Easton that they would have to bring the resolution back; it was not the correct one. Mr. Easton stated they could add it to the next meetings agenda since it is due May 16th.

Commissioner Holt asked if they could go ahead and vote on it and make it tentative. Mr. Baptiste stated he did not think they should vote on the resolution with it not being before the board.

Mr. Baptiste asked for them to approve the resolution on page 29 of 31.

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

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 25-027 AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

11. General Business

11.a Policy Authorizing County Attorney to Retain Outside Legal and Professional Services up to \$10,000 Annually Per Firm

Mr. Morris presented the above item.

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

11.b Appointments to the ARPC (Apalachee Regional Planning Commission)

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.c Approval of Funding for 2025 Lake 38 Pro-Am Waterski Pro Tour

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

11.d Approval of Purchase of a Day Cab Truck for Public Works

Mr. Young appeared before the board.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THIS ITEM AND TO INCLUDE TRUCK WORK AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Simpkins stepped out at 7:02 p.m.

11.e Citizen Advisory Committee Discussion

Mr. Baptiste stated the citizen advisory committee appointed Antonio Jefferson as Chairman. At their last meeting, they recommended to re-advertise the county administrator position and previous applicants need not to re-apply. Also, the committee has designated 4 names that they would like to keep for the next round of evaluations.

Commissioner Simpkins returned at 7:04 p.m.

Commissioner Green asked if there were applications filled out as opposed to just resumes. Mr. Baptiste stated the committee did not receive any applications, just resumes.

Commissioner Holt stated they need to look at goals and objectives. She also thought the committee should not select 4 applicants to continue on as it could lead to people not wanting to apply.

Commissioner Green asked what timeframe were they looking at now if they agree to re-advertise. Mr. Baptiste stated the committee's recommendation was to re-advertise for 30-45 days. Commissioner Simpkins stated they need to be specific on where they are advertising.

Chair Hinson stated to have a workshop on this. Commissioner Green stated they need a special meeting over a workshop so they can vote to make changes.

Commissioner Simpkins requested the special meeting to be on Monday at 6 p.m.

12. Clerk of Court

No updates.

13. Interim County Attorney

Mr. Baptiste mentioned adopting a resolution to invite DOGE into the county; 3 out of 4 counties in Florida would be involved.

Mr. Baptiste mentioned memo regarding Gadsden community health council.

Mr. Baptiste asked for a motion regarding county having an insurance claim and to give Mr. Morris the authority to sign legal document.

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

14. Interim County Administrator

Mr. Morris stated on April 26th the Gadsden County probation department will host an event at the jail to provide household items for families of incarcerated individuals.

Commissioner Green asked Mr. Morris about the fire contract. He mentioned conversation had at the city meeting. He asked to not speak on behalf of the board.

Mr. Baptiste stated the county sent a fire contract to the city more than 14 days ago that contained provisions from the city staff. He incorporated it into a new agreement and provided it to the city. The city had that document prior to their most recent meeting. Commissioner Green stated they need to schedule a joint meeting to talk about contracts.

Chair Hinson stated he looked at the Boys & Girls Club contract. At the last meeting, someone had mentioned that it had to be inside city limits. When he looked at the contract, it just states that it has to be in the City of Quincy.

Commissioner Holt stated they need to apologize to the City of Quincy. They sent the contract to them, but then this board started talking about maybe putting it at Corey Field. They do not want to offend the city and want to work with them.

Commissioner Wood stepped out at 7:39 p.m. and returned at 7:40 p.m.

Commissioner Green stated he called all 5 commissioners and they all would love to sit down and talk about this. They received this information the day of their meeting.

Mr. Baptiste wanted to clarify that in the city meeting, the conversation started over an inter-local agreement regarding South Adams Street sidewalk. The city did not have staff to complete the project so the county stepped in to help. The county was LAP certified.

Mr. Baptiste mentioned that the county received information today from the Department of Transportation that says if the City of Quincy and Gadsden County cannot execute an inter-local agreement, the county will have no choice but to terminate the project. He also wanted to note

that what started this was not a dispute of the Boys & Girls Club and the location; it was the city's understanding as to their financial contribution related to South Adams Street. The financial contribution as confirmed by the city in writing is \$141,855.

Commissioner Green stated they need to be at the table. Commissioner Simpkins stated only one city commissioner agreed to a meeting with them.

COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE A MOTION TO GIVE THEM THE ABILITY TO PAY THE SAME AMOUNT AS LAST YEAR FOR THE CITY OF QUINCY FIRE DEPARTMENT. THE MOTION DIED DUE TO A LACK OF SECOND.

Commissioner Simpkins stated if they were able to pay, the board would have no problem, but she didn't think they could without an agreement. Mr. Baptiste stated technically, this board is able to allocate funds from general revenue; practically, they are not able to from what the contract says. He cannot verify that they offered the City of Quincy an increase in the fire contract. The administrator met with them and gave them a prior contract and asked them to make any changes to the prior contract to reflect the new contract. In the agreement Mr. Baptiste sent over, he left the number at \$661,500.

Commissioner Green asked about the Assistant Administrator position. Mr. Morris stated they are going to advertise it.

15. Discussion Items by Commissioners

15.a Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2

Commissioner Simpkins stated she will be hosting the Sprout & Shout event Saturday in Havana; the egg hunt will be at 12 p.m.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if they could take a look at possible locations for the Boys & Girls Club and to have input from the club. She also gave a shout out to Havana Magnet who hosted the resource fair.

15.b Commissioner Shawn Wood, District 3

Commissioner Wood mentioned the Boys & Girls Club and stated there is no facility for people in Chattahoochee.

15.c Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt stated they need to send representatives from the county when there are items relating to the county in other meetings.

Commissioner Holt mentioned economic development and partnering with people to get business here.

15.d Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5

Commissioner Green asked for a support letter for the Hands-Free Driving Act. Mr. Baptiste stated that would require a motion.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION FOR A SUPPORT LETTER FOR THE HANDS-FREE DRIVING ACT AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Mr. Baptiste requested a motion for the Chair to sign a letter to Tallahassee State College. Commissioner Green stated TSC sent them emails regarding them wanting to do upgrades to the cafeteria in Gadsden County.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION FOR THE CHAIR TO SIGN LETTER TO TALLAHASSEE STATE COLLEGE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Green mentioned speed bumps on Holt Lane. Mr. Young appeared and stated Holt Lane was completed today.

Commissioner Green asked for an update on the emergency management center. Mr. Morris stated they advertised for A&E and received 2 bids; the state requires 3 bids.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO HAVE A MEETING WITH THE CITY OF QUINCY AND COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

15.e Commissioner Eric F. Hinson, District 1

Chair Hinson mentioned May Day and asked for funding. Mr. Baptiste asked to not make a motion due to them needing to allocate funding. Chair Hinson stated they could add the motion to the next meeting's agenda.

Chair Hinson mentioned 5k for each school. Mr. Baptiste stated they were on a non-agenda item and cautioned them to not discuss. Chair Hinson stated to put it on the next agenda.

Superintendent James appeared.

16. Motion to Adjourn

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HINSON DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:58 PM.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

Eric F. Hinson, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk