

AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON APRIL 21,
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, Clerk Secretary to the Boards

1. Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Hinson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Chair Hinson led into the invocation and the pledge of allegiance.

4. Amendments to the Agenda

Commissioner Simpkins requested that item 7.e. be pulled from the agenda.

Commissioner Wood asked for a reason why Commissioner Simpkins wanted to pull the item.

Commissioner Simpkins stated due to this event bringing people to the county, TDC can fund this event and that's why she wanted to pull the item.

**COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION TO PULL ITEM 7.E FROM THE AGENDA AND
COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND.**

**COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS RESCINDED HER MOTION TO PULL ITEM 7.E. FROM THE AGENDA
AND COMMISSIONER GREEN RESCINDED HIS SECOND.**

Commissioner Holt appeared at 6:04 p.m.

Commissioner Wood stated the Saw Dust event was not on the agenda.

**COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE A MOTION TO ADD THE SAW DUST EVENT TO THE AGENDA
UNDER 7.D. 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. **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.

Tracey Stallworth, P.O. Box 1339

Mr. Stallworth appeared and provided documentation for his request. He requested \$45k to provide food/household supplies for seniors. Stated he is a 501c3 non-profit.

Mr. Stallworth stated it will be help for all 6 municipalities.

Commissioner Holt stated Mr. Stallworth should get with Mr. Morris to get the item on the agenda.

7. **General Business**

7.a **County Administrator's Position**

Mr. Baptiste stated they have been asked to address the application for the County Administrator. He stated the citizens advisory committee requested to readvertise the position.

Mr. Baptiste stated he just handed the board a document which is the advertisement they put out for the County Administrators position. He stated Human Resources received over 100 applications and only 20 met the requirements.

Commissioner Green stated he wants to entertain adding the application to the process.

Chair Hinson asked why the application wasn't included to start with. He stated everyone has to fill out an application when applying for a position, so he was confused why that was not included in the process.

Commissioner Simpkins requested to use the resources they have available to them as far as the initial recruitment and search itself. She referenced using Florida association of Counties.

Commissioner Green asked if there was something specific Commissioner Simpkins was looking for.

Commissioner Simpkins stated they should contact Florida Association of Managers; They will supply the timeline and put the advertisement out for the board.

Mr. Morris requested Ms. Robinson come up and asked where they advertised for the position; Ms. Robinson appeared and stated the position was advertised on the County website, indeed, LinkedIn, zip recruiter, FACT, Fnit, and Naco.

Chair Hinson stated the goals, objectives are listed online.

Commissioner Simpkins stated they don't have the demographics of the community listed online.

Mr. Baptiste requested to seek clarification on the motion pertaining to the application.

Commissioner Simpkins stated to answer Mr. Baptiste's question for clarification is to add the questions that the board establishes to the application that human resources create for this position.

Commissioner Holt stated the goals and objectives are not listed online and she thinks they should be to get a good candidate.

Commissioner Green stated each commissioner should come up with 2 questions, email them to Mr. Morris, and then when they come back for the regular meeting and address it being included on the application.

Chair Hinson stated staff should submit 2 questions as well and they pick the best 10.

Commissioner Wood asked Ms. Robinson what they are sending; Ms. Robinson stated the whole packet that the commissioners have is what is advertised on every site they posted the job opening.

Commissioner Simpkins stated once they submit the 2 questions they need to move along because they keep dragging this process out.

Commissioner Simpkins asked Ms. Steele about a video being creating showing who Gadsden County is; Ms. Steele stated there is already a video showing who Gadsden County is.

Mr. Baptiste stated the Citizen advisory committee stated they recommended the previous applicants need not apply.

Mr. Hinson stated all prior applicants need to reapply as they did not supply an application the first go round and that is now required in the process.

Mr. Baptiste stated they are over the time for this item.

Mr. Jefferson, Chair for the citizen advisory committee appeared, and stated they did have 5 people that were good candidates but did not want all applicants to reapply due to human resources had already vetted the applicants.

Mr. Baptiste stated they can't pick and choose who to tell to reapply, so all applicants need to reapply and submit an application.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO INCLUDE THE APPLICATION IN THE PROCESS AND COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE TO APPROVE.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION THAT EACH COMMISSIONER AND STAFF SELECT 2 QUESTIONS TO SUBMIT TO MR. MORRIS TO BE AN AGENDA ITEM AT NEXT MEETING AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE TO APPROVE.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION THAT THE APPLICATION IS OPEN TO EVERYONE TO APPLY INCLUDING PREVIOUS APPLICANTS AND CHAIR HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE TO APPROVE.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO MOVE TO ADVERTISE THE POSITION FOR 45 DAYS AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MAKE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1, TO APPROVE WITH COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS OPPOSING.

7.b Approval of Funding for the Six Municipalities (Chattahoochee, Greensboro, Gretna, Havana, Midway, and Quincy)

Mr. Morris presented above item. This agenda item seeks Board approval of funding for the Six Municipalities. (Chattahoochee, Greensboro, Gretna, Havana, Midway, and Quincy)

Commissioner Wood stated the next event is May Day and that's where the money should go.

Commissioner Holt asked about the policy and procedure for this item.

Commissioner Green stated they all know these events bring people to the county. He stated he wanted to make sure they are considered as partners.

Commissioner Holt stated that's what they have TDC for events like May Day.

Chair Hinson stated he's in agreement with May Day as long as all municipalities get the same \$10k.

Mayor Russ Seals of Gretna appeared to provide a video and a brief description for May Day.

Commissioner Green stepped out at 7:12 p.m.
Commissioner Green returned at 7:14 p.m.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE ITEM SUBJECT TO A CONTINGENT ADJUSTMENT BY THE BUDGET DEPARTMENT AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE TO APPROVE.

7.c Approval of Resolution regarding the Florida Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE)

Mr. Baptiste stated this item comes from the letter the County received from the office of the Governor; He stated the staff needs a motion to be able to compile the information DOGE was requesting, complete the letter, have chair Hinson sign it, and send back to the Governor's office. He stated this is not the resolution.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if they identified a single point of contact; Mr. Baptiste stated he is already working with an employee who is the new Finance director and requested that employee remain the point of contact.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE STAFF TO COMPLETE A LETTER TO SEND BACK TO THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE TO APPROVE.

7.d Approval of Funding Request for Havana and Chattahoochee 20th of May Celebration

Chair Hinson presented the above item and stated this was for approval of Havana, Chattahoochee, and Sawdust May 20th celebrations.

Commissioner Wood mentioned the Gunn Family's event and people coming from Miami to attend. Commissioner Holt stated she is in favor of May Day and wants to fund it. They need policy and procedure in place.

Commissioner Green asked what was the total amount. Commissioner Wood stated they did not come up with an amount. Commissioner Holt suggested 10k, like before.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 7:25 p.m.
Commissioner Holt returned at 7:26 p.m.

Chair Hinson asked what Commissioner Wood thought the actual cost should be. Commissioner Wood stated he really does not know and would like to hear from the commissioners first.

Commissioner Wood stepped out at 7:27 p.m.
Commissioner Wood returned at 7:28 p.m.

Mr. Morris asked Ms. Raynak, Finance Director, to come up. Ms. Raynak appeared before the board and stated they were tasked with finding money in the budget for the 6 municipalities, 2 May Days, and the mega reunions for 6 schools. She was confused on how item 7.b., which gives

10k each, was different from item 7.d., which gives Havana, Chattahoochee, and Sawdust money for May Day. Chair Hinson stated they are separate items.

Commissioner Simpkins stated there are different amounts listed for item 7.b. and item 7.d. but it's under the same ordinance 23-07, and she asked Ms. Raynak why that is. Ms. Raynak stated it was due to a payment not being finalized by the Clerk's office yet, but those funds have been allocated and that is why it is different.

Ms. Raynak stated whatever motion they make should be contingent on them making sure that the right amount of money is coming out of the right line item, after the Clerk's Office gives them the O.K. Chair Hinson stated they will go back and amend the motion.

Commissioner Wood made a motion to give \$5,000 to each event. Ms. Raynak clarified that the events he is referring to is for Havana and Chattahoochee May Day. Commissioner Wood and Mr. Morris stated Sawdust as well.

COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE A MOTION TO GIVE \$5,000 EACH FOR HAVANA MAY DAY EVENT, CHATTAHOOCHEE MAY DAY EVENT, AND SAWDUST MAY DAY EVENT. COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Chair Hinson stated before they go to the next item, they should go back to item 7.b. and amend the motion. Mr. Baptiste stated to have a motion that approves the resolution under 7.b., subject to contingent adjustment by the finance department. The motion was amended under item 7.b.

7.e Approval of Funding Request for High School Mega Reunions (Havana Northside, East Gadsden, Shanks, Greensboro, and Chattahoochee)

Mr. Morris presented the above item. This agenda item seeks Board approval of funding for the High School Mega Reunions.

Commissioner Simpkins stated these particular reunions bring in people to the community and fall under TDC and TDC is prepared to fund these events.

Ms. Steele stated TDC already funded Havana's mega reunion with \$5k. She stated TDC can only fund each school \$5k.

Chair Hinson recognized Ms. Dot for everything she does in the community and asked her to come forward.

Ms. Dot came forward and stated she has been with Gadsden County school board for 17-18 years. She loves her job and the children.

Mr. Baptiste stated 7.e is going to TDC so they needed to make a motion for that to happen.

Ms. Carol appeared and thanked the board for supporting the reunions.

COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE A MOTION TO SEND THE ITEM TO TDC TO FUND AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE TO APPROVE.

8. Motion to Adjourn

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HINSON
DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:50 PM.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA



Eric F. Hinson, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:


NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

