

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON MAY 6,
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 p.m. Bishop Green led into invocation and Chair Hinson led into the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. **Amendments to the Agenda**

Mr. Morris stated the below amendments:

Pull item 11.d., Approval to Accept the Donated Boat Ramp on Iron Bridge Road

Add item 11.f, Board Approval to begin the negotiation phase with Proposers Responding to request for qualifications RFQ 25-02

Commissioner Holt stated she wanted to add PAMS as well as the health mobile unit funding to the agenda for discussion. Mr. Baptiste stated he looked into the PAMS and mobile health unit and attended a Gadsden Community Health Council meeting. He recommended for the board to not take any action in relations to funding PAMS or the bus due to legal requirements they are still going through. He has had conversations with Reverend Hannah on the issue.

Commissioner Holt stated the items were for discussion not a vote. Chair Hinson stated they should get legal concerns out of the way first. Commissioner Wood asked if she would mind having this discussion under her comments section and Commissioner Holt stated she would have an issue with that because that is not on the agenda. She asked for her items to be put on the agenda.

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA AND CHAIR HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER HOLT OPPOSED.

Chair Hinson mentioned that Commissioner Green was online.

5. Approval of Agenda

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED AND COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER HOLT OPPOSED.

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION TO REMOVE ITEM 6.B. FROM THE AGENDA AND COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

6. Awards, Presentations, and Appearances

6.a Recognition of the Big Bend Rodeo

Commissioner Simpkins presented the proclamation to the Big Bend Rodeo.

6.b Recognition of Ms. Aliza Hutley

Pulled.

7. Consent

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

7.a Ratification Memo

7.b BOCC Meeting/Workshop Minutes

7.b.1. April 1, 2025, BOCC Regular Meeting

7.b.2. April 3, 2025, Public Safety Coordinating Council Meeting

7.c. Code Enforcement Lien Satisfaction

7.d. Approval of the State of Florida Department of Revenue Child Support Program Standard Sheriff's Contract

7.e. Approval of 2024 Older Americans Act Program III Amended Contract

7.f. CareerSource Capital Region Interlocal Agreement Amendment

7.g. A Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners of Gadsden County, Florida, Expressing Its Support for the Designation of Rural Area of Opportunity (RAO), Formerly Known as Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC)

7.h. Approval of Settlement Agreement with Coombs/Geathers/Lawson v. Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners

7.i. Approval of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) RWQ 25-01 Asbestos Inspections of Private Residential Dwellings

7.j. Approval of the 'Old Courthouse Renovation 2nd Phase' Agreement (No. 25. h.sc.100.009) issued by the Department of State

7.k. Approval of the Comprehensive Vulnerability Assessment Agreement (No. 23PLN40) Amendment No. 1 presented by the Department of Environmental Protection

7.l. Adopt-A-Road Agreement with the Gadsden County 4-H Saddle Club

7.m. Approval of 2025 Small County Consolidated Waste Grant Application with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

7.n. Approval of Donation to Crossroad Academy

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.

Gary Murray, 481 Woodberry Rd

Mr. Murray was not present.

10. Public Hearing

11. General Business

11.a. Approval of Resolution 2025-028 Grant Budget Amendment for FY2025

Mr. Morris presented the above item.

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

11.b. Appointments for the Small County Coalition

Mr. Morris presented the above item.

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

CHAIR HINSON AMENDED HIS MOTION TO ADD MR. MORRIS OR DESIGNEE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

11.c. Approval to Confirm the EMS Director

Mr. Morris presented the above item.

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

Dewayne Ford, EMS Director, appeared before the board to introduce himself. He stated he was born and raised in Gadsden County. He has been a nurse for 12 years and a paramedic for 5 years. He was honored to serve his community.

~~11.d. Approval to Accept the Donated Boat Ramp on Iron Bridge Road~~

Item pulled.

11.e. Approval of Supplemental Questions for the County Administrator Position Application

Mr. Morris presented the above item.

Commissioner Green asked if these questions would be included in the package. Chair Hinson stated it was for application purposes only not for interviews.

Commissioner Holt stated she was glad they are getting the questions, because she would like to see examples of things they have done.

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

Commissioner Simpkins requested that applicants be sent to their website to apply and not on Indeed.

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

Jeronda Robinson, HR Manager, appeared before the board and stated they were going to be getting the same pool of applicants and she agreed to what Commissioner Simpkins and Commissioner Holt were saying.

Commissioner Wood returned at 6:40 p.m.

Mr. Baptiste stated they were out of ordinance since this item has already passed and advised for them to move to the next item.

11.f Board Approval to begin the negotiation phase with Proposers Responding to request for qualifications RFQ 25-02

Mr. Morris presented the above item.

Chair Hinson asked if they have to give public notice to put this on the agenda or were they able to vote tonight. Mr. Morris stated this item was just asking staff to negotiate and it did not need a public notice or hearing.

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

12. Clerk of Court

No updates.

13. County Attorney

Mr. Baptiste stated he was going to ask for a workshop regarding the kratom ordinance. He drafted an ordinance and would like the board to review it.

Mr. Baptiste stated he was tasked to look at adopting a vehicle ordinance and that would need a workshop as well. The county already has a policy through HR, but he was tasked to draft an ordinance.

14. County Administrator

Mr. Morris mentioned the issue of unauthorized use of a county vehicle and stated it has been resolved.

Mr. Morris requested a proclamation for EMS Week and Public Works Week.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR EMS AND PUBLIC WORKS WEEK AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

Mr. Morris mentioned upcoming events:

May 16 – Food Drive at Ward’s Lot

May 20 – EMS & Public Works Week celebration at Public Works Dept.

May 21 – Senior Fun Day in Chattahoochee

Commissioner Green mentioned the summer youth program and thought they should explain the process openly. They did not know the process that they used to select the 150 students. He did not know until today that they were randomly picked and he felt like that was an unfair process. He wanted to make sure all students essays were read and they are all interviewed.

Mr. Morris stated he would like to bring up Ms. Robinson for clarification on the process.

Commissioner Wood stepped out at 6:51 p.m. and returned at 6:52 p.m.

Ms. Robinson appeared and stated every year, they usually have well over the number of students that they budget for. They budgeted for 150 students this year and they got 290 applications. They received 248 completed applications. She was instructed to pull 30 applicants from each district to make it fair and they used a lottery system to select students for the program.

Commissioner Green asked who instructed the process of picking 30 from each district. Ms. Robinson stated the administrator did.

Commissioner Wood stated he would like to hear from the citizens that requested to speak about the summer youth program. Mr. Baptiste stated that would need a motion.

COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE A MOTION TO ALLOW CITIZENS TO SPEAK ON THIS ISSUE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Tomeka Lightfoot, 1300 West King St

Ms. Lightfoot appeared before the board to discuss the summer youth program. On the day that she delivered her information for the program, she asked how was this process going to take place. She was told that all of the students who submitted all of their information in a timely manner were going to get an interview. She asked what was the process for the interviews since the students were still in school during the day. She was told that they would be interviewed on a Saturday.

Ms. Lightfoot stated her daughter was informed that other students received an email that they were selected to participate in the program, even though they were not interviewed.

Dahlia Mitchell, 909 W Franklin St

Ms. Mitchell appeared before the board to discuss the interview process not being done for the summer youth program. She stated they were going to have a lot of kids doing nothing during summer time.

Commissioner Holt mentioned that they need policies and procedures in place. She stated she was the one to ask for the cut of students in the program because in certain cases, things were not being done.

Commissioner Green stated they did not follow the process for this program and he agreed with what Ms. Lightfoot stated.

Mr. Baptiste asked for them to table this issue so that he could look at the legality of the situation before the board does anything.

Mr. Morris stated HR would need adequate time to interview all applicants.

15. Discussion Items by Commissioners

15.a. Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2

Commissioner Simpkins stated she had an opportunity to celebrate with Havana Northside reunion.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned commissioners having a retreat to sit and discuss their strategic goals.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned having an EMS program for students in Gadsden County.

15.b. Commissioner Shawn Wood, District 3

Commissioner Wood mentioned the rural renaissance bill and stated it was very important for their county that this pass. Ms. Steele stated it was passed Friday.

Commissioner Wood stated he spoke with the interim attorney and the interim administrator regarding the Cooksey title. He asked where they were with that.

Mr. Baptiste stated he confirmed today that a check was accepted and cashed by the county. A possible solution for this would be for the board to vote to give Mr. Morris the authority to sign correction affidavits/titles to correct the issue but to note that this Board is not ratifying the sell.

COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE A MOTION TO GIVE THE INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR THE AUTHORITY TO SIGN DOCUMENTS TO TRANSFER THE VEHICLES SOLD WITHOUT COUNTY PERMISSION, AND WITH CLARIFICATION THAT THEY ARE NOT RATIFYING THE SELL. COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND AND THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

15.c. Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt mentioned county properties and getting businesses in.

Commissioner Holt stated they need help in Planning & Zoning; they need 2 planners.

15.d. Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5

Commissioner Green thanked public works for the pick-up.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR MARIAH BRADWELL AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

15.e. Commissioner Eric F. Hinson, District 1

Chair Hinson mentioned having the parking lot re-constructed and adding a fence.

Commissioner Simpkins thanked the probation department for a job well done for the giveaway at the jail.

16. **Motion to Adjourn**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HINSON
DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:48 PM.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**ERIC F. HINSON, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk