

**AT A WORKSHOP HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JUNE 3, 2025, AT 4:00
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD,
VIZ:**

Present: **Eric F. Hinson, Chair, District 1, Not Present**
 Ronterious Green, Vice-Chair, District 5
 Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2
 Shawn Wood, District 3
 Brenda Holt, District 4
 Roosevelt Morris, Interim County Administrator, Appeared via Zoom
 Louis Baptiste, Interim County Attorney
 Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk
 Leann Jinks, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Vice-Chair Green called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. Vice chair Green led into the invocation, and the pledge of allegiance.

Citizens Requesting to be Heard on Non-Agenda Items (3-minutes 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.

Vice chair Green read aloud the above statement.

General Business

3.a. Preliminary Budget Discussion

Attorney Baptiste stated Chair Hinson was on his way from Tallahassee.

Attorney Baptiste stated Ms. Raynak was going to discuss the budget, so he turned over the discussion to Ms. Raynak.

Ms. Raynak appeared before the board and gave a description of the above item.

Ms. Raynak explained the strategic plan crosswalk. She stated it should look familiar to them as they have seen it in other budget workshops.

Ms. Raynak stated in the past that the community involvement was a big part, and they wanted to continue to ask the community to stay involved, as they can't do this without that involvement.

Ms. Raynak shared the economic growth plans.

Commissioner Simpkins appeared at 4:11 p.m.

Ms. Raynak Stated they have had a lot of meetings and workshops this year.

Ms. Raynak stated they do have 4 new buildings coming online soon and they will need to increase budget for staff, utilities, and infrastructure needs.

Ms. Raynak stated the board has gone overboard with the donation of funds this year that were not originally budgeted.

Ms. Raynak stated they have been meeting with all the department heads for their budget and the challenges they will be facing coming into the new budget year.

Ms. Raynak stated there were a few things that hit the budget this year that were unexpected and some of those things were quite a large increase and the insurance increase is one of them.

Commissioner Holt appeared at 4:14 p.m.

Ms. Raynak stated Economic development has been discussed and they are trying to get some industrial development and a fruit stand/market.

Ms. Raynak stated they have had a lot of giveaways for the community whether it be household items, clothing, and food.

Ms. Raynak stated there is over \$15 million dollars in projects for infrastructure they are currently working on now.

Ms. Raynak went over the other revenue sources to assist citizens estimated over \$29 million dollars.

Ms. Raynak spoke about the revenue projections estimated over \$28 million dollars.

Ms. Raynak stated the net property revenue is going up and going into the Fiscal Year 2026 at over \$20 million dollars.

Ms. Raynak spoke about the Fiscal Year 2026 tentative revenue summary by department.

Commissioner Wood stepped out at 4:29 p.m.

Commissioner Wood returned at 4:30 p.m.

Ms. Raynak introduced the tentative revenues by fund for fiscal year 2026.

Ms. Raynak stated they are expecting the expenditures to be around \$69 million dollars.

Ms. Raynak stated some of the things making expenditures rise are utilities, cost of vehicles, insurance, salaries, workers compensation, etc.

Ms. Raynak stated the last page is discussion items for the board to take up and she opened it up for attorney Baptiste and the board for questions.

Vice-Chair Green asked if she knew when they would have the other constitutional's reports, and Ms. Raynak stated the sheriff's office report is expected any day and the Tax collector does not have to get theirs to them until August 1st.

Vice-Chair Green thanked Ms. Raynak for her thorough report and taking the time to meet with the commissioners on this.

Commissioner Holt asked if they could request an estimate on the report from the Tax collector, and Ms. Raynak stated she has asked for an estimate and has not received a response.

Commissioner Holt stated they did not look into opening any facilities, or the maintenance and employment for the new buildings.

Commissioner Holt asked attorney Baptiste if they must maintain the buildings they build, and Mr. Baptiste stated yes, they do.

Vice-Chair Green stated they need to get an analysis on hiring more employees or contract out for employees for the new buildings.

Commissioner Holt stated she thinks they should separate the parks from road and bridge.

Commissioner Holt asked if she had numbers on what was spent that had not been budgeted, and Ms. Raynak stated she sent a summary of those numbers from the past 3 years Board meetings showing what is being spent that is not budgeted, and she stated some of the unbudgeted spent money was taken care of by The tourist development council, the general fund, ARPA money and she estimated it was half a million to 1 million per 1 year.

Ms. Raynak stated she thinks there will be an audit report put out by the clerk to give them a better idea of where they are financially.

Commissioner Holt stated with EMS vacancies; those must be filled no matter what.

Vice-Chair Green stated they need to look at job openings currently and can any of them be combined and give an increase in pay to said employees that take on the increase in work.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she wants to make sure the public is getting correct information on their non budgeted spending and not all the money comes from the Board of County Commissioners, as it can come from Tourist Development Council, and other boards.

Ms. Raynak stated this year there were a lot of little things adding up; \$5k here, \$10k here, and the large donation for Dr. Brown, but there are some pending requests now. She also stated it would be fiscally important that the board consider what kinds of activities are coming up in a year and budget for that upfront.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she wants to take a deep dive into the budget, as tough conversations need to be had.

Vice-Chair Green stated the Board of County Commissioners paying insurance for employees was an incentive to capture employees at one time, but they do need to revisit this.

Mr. Morris appeared via zoom.

Commissioner Simpkins stated they need to take a deep dive into each department, and the vehicles that they lease and are paying for.

Commissioner Wood stepped out at 4:58 p.m.

Commissioner Wood returned at 5:00 p.m.

Ms. Raynak stated they have a meeting scheduled next week with enterprise on the lease of the vehicles, and she stated she can get the information back to the board, and Commissioner Green stated he would recommend Chair Hinson should sit in on this meeting but if he is not available then Commissioner Green volunteered to sit in on the meeting.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if they have budgeted for the equipment for mowers and tractors; Raynak stated no, it is not in the public works budget.

Ms. Raynak stated they are continuing to look at those items as this is only budget meeting 1. She stated they are facing the Public works equipment contract expiring coming soon so the decision will have to be made to buy out the contract at \$1.3 million or continue to pay the yearly of \$340k.

Ms. Raynak stated depending on what the audit shows, they could be healthier than what they think they are in the fund budget, and it could be possible to use some of the fund balance to cover some of those items.

Vice-Chair Green asked what the projected date of the audit report would be, and it was stated June 30th.

Laurel Bradley was asked to appear, and she stated the 30th is the only day they would be able to hold a special meeting to go over the audit report as it is the only time all commissioners will be available.

Mr. Morris stated he met with Apalachee regional council last week and there are 3 people that have been satisfied to work with Gadsden County, and he has planned with the planning department that they will be meeting with the Apalachee regional council every Thursday to keep the planning department moving.

Mr. Morris stated he does plan on bringing a new organization chart to the board starting with the administrator and going down through each department. He stated they are looking to combine some departments and getting rid of some positions that may not be needed anymore.

Mr. Morris stated he had met with public works and facilities to see about contracting out some of the roads for mowing of the right ways.

Mr. Morris stated they will need to hire more staff for custodial due to the new buildings coming online for the Stevens school, the special needs shelter, EMS, EOC, and the sheriff's office.

Vice-Chair Green asked if they can get an example of what is going to be needed for the budget when it comes to hiring more staff.

Mr. Morris stated they are proposing a new software as they are in dire need of it, and the software will help with Finance, Human Resources, and payroll.

Commissioner Holt stated Planning and zoning had not been to any workshops to further their training, and that needs to happen.

Mr. Jackson appeared and stated they have been trying to get some collective software so everyone can coexist.

Commission Wood stated EMS, Law enforcement, and Fire's environment and workload is the main reason they lose people.

Vice-Chair Green asked about next date for budget meeting, and Ms. Raynak stated August 4th.

Ms. Raynak asked if they want a meeting ending of June, beginning of July for a budget meeting and Vice-Chair Green stated yes.

Motion to Adjourn

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, VICE-CHAIR GREEN
DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:44 PM.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk