

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR  
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JUNE 3,  
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 Board

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

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

**4. Amendments to the Agenda**

Attorney Baptiste stated he will be speaking on Mr. Morris's behalf and stated the below amendments:

ITEMS REQUESTING TO BE ADDED UNDER GENERAL BUSINESS:

*11.b. Request for Paramedic Sign-On Bonus*

*11.c. Approval of Dogtown Road - State Funded Grant Agreement*

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

**5. Approval of Agenda**

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

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

6.a Presentation of a Proposal from WSB Outlining a Roadmap for Infrastructure Development  
(Shandra Ganious, Project Manager, WSB)

Shandra Ganious and Jupe Hale appeared before the board to provide a presentation of a proposal from WSB for infrastructure development.

Chair Hinson wanted clarity that this was legal; he thought this was just a presentation and not a proposal. The board has not heard anything about this.

Commissioner Wood stated they have been asking for this and had no problem with it.  
Commissioner Green stated they were not asking for a vote and they should be fine.

Ms. Ganious went through the proposed locations:

Location A: Midway/1-10 Exit 192

Location B: Quincy-Joe Adams Rd

Mr. Hale stated this was probably one of the easiest sites.

Location C: Havana North to Georgia Line

Mr. Hale went through an estimated timeline and potential infrastructure construction costs. The estimated cost for one site would be \$50,000 and the total for all 3 sites would be \$120,000.

Ms. Gainous mentioned potential grants. Commissioner Wood stated all 3 sites were really good.

## **7. Consent**

Attorney Baptiste requested that item 7.f., Approval of Funding Request for Sawdust-Gunn May Celebration, be pulled from consent agenda and moved to general business.

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

### **7.a Ratification Memo**

#### **7.b BOCC Meeting/Workshop Minutes**

1. April 15, 2025, Regular BOCC Meeting
2. April 21, 2025, Special Meeting
3. May 6, 2025, Regular BOCC Meeting

#### **7.c Approval of Law Enforcement Education Funds for DARE Officer Training**

#### **7.d Approval of Law Enforcement Education Funds for DARE Officer Training**

#### **7.e Approval of Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles - Memorandum of Understanding - Annual Certification Statement**

#### **7.f Approval of Funding Request for Sawdust-Gunn May Celebration**

**7.g Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Liens and Contracts - State Housing Initiative Partnership Program (SHIP)**

**7.h Approval to Apply for the 2025 911 State Grant Program Funds for \$258,080.65 for FY2025-2026**

**7.i Approval to Accept the State-Funded Agreements for GIS and NextGen 911 Core Services PSAP Upgrades with the Florida Department of Management Services**

**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](mailto: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](http://www.gadsdencountyfl.gov).

Chair Hinson read aloud the above statement.

**A.J. Marlow Jr.,**

Mr. Marlow appeared and stated he was speaking on behalf of Mr. Williams, public works employee. Mr. Williams was terminated due to an issue with a property owner that stated he did not have permission to take a watermelon even though they had a conversation about it and the owner let him take one. Mr. Marlow thought that Mr. Williams should get his job back.

**Carolyn Ford, 526 Key St.**

Ms. Ford appeared before the board regarding Stevens School. They were just about finished but she urged the commissioners to move quicker on that last leg of getting the equipment for the cafeteria.

Chair Hinson stated everything should be finalized in June.

Commissioner Green stated he visited the site today and was going to mention getting the equipment for the kitchen. Mr. Morris stated they have a final inspection on Friday; deadline was supposed to be June 1. He stated they have contingency funds left over to use it for the kitchen equipment.

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

Mr. Elias appeared and stated he took the opportunity to look at their grievance and disciplinary process. There were a few things that he wanted to bring to their attention.

Chair Hinson read aloud the citizens to be heard sent via email.

**10. Public Hearings**

**11. General Business**

**11.a. Approval of Two Work Authorizations with CRA for Design Work Associated with Broadband Grant Funded Projects for a Telehealth/Career Center in Chattahoochee and Havana**

Mr. Baptiste presented the above item.

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

**11.b. Request for Paramedic Sign-On Bonus**

Mr. Baptiste presented the above item. He stated the bonus would be in quarterly payments, not a lump sum.

Commissioner Wood asked if they were not here for the whole year, would they have to pay the county back. Attorney Baptiste stated no, they would only get for what they served.

Commissioner Green stated he was in support of this bonus due to the shortage they are experiencing.

Commissioner Holt stated she would like to see a contract where they agree to stay an extra year.

Chief Ford appeared before the board. He thought if they stretch it out in 2 years, it would not really be worth it. Commissioner Green stated they were referring to committing for 2 years.

Mr. Baptiste stated he has no problem with drafting a contract that requires an employee return a bonus if they leave the county.

Chief stated they do have a reimbursement process for EMT's going to paramedic school, they have to sign a 3-year contract.

Commissioner Green asked if they could amend the motion to give 5k sign on bonus all up front and with a 2-year commitment. Mr. Baptiste stated he could draft a contract for that.

Commissioner Simpkins stated if the Chief was comfortable with how this was outlined already, then it should stay like that. Commissioner Green stated they can follow the process already in place for this item.

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

**11.c. Approval of Dogtown Road – State Funded Grant Agreement**

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THIS ITEM AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.**

*Commissioner Wood stepped out at 7:42 p.m.*

Mr. Baptiste provided an overview of this item.

**11.d. Approval of Funding Request for Sawdust-Gunn May Celebration**

Mr. Baptiste presented the above item. He stated there was an issue with the motion previously made on this item and they are asking to re-make their motion to clarify that the Sawdust May Day event was the Gunn Family event and to authorize the Clerk to release those funds to the family.

*Commissioner Wood returned at 7:43 p.m.*

**COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THIS ITEM WITH CLARIFICATION THAT THE SAWDUST MAY DAY EVENT WAS THE GUNN FAMILY EVENT AND TO AUTHORIZE THE CLERK TO RELEASE FUNDS TO THE GUNN FAMILY. COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND AND THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.**

**12. Clerk of Court**

No updates.

**13. Interim County Attorney**

Attorney Baptiste mentioned hurricane preparedness on Friday.

Commissioner Green asked for a Bopp/Champs Chance update. Mr. Baptiste stated there was a hearing yesterday and he will meet with Mr. Morris and Ms. Bopp. Withhold ruling for 3 weeks.

Mr. Baptiste stated Gadsden County BOCC draft trim notice. He read through the document needing to go on record that outlines dates and description of each timeframe.

Mr. Baptiste stated they were pending the County administrator search. HR needs direction to post that position.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO DIRECT HR TO POST THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR POSITION AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.**

Commissioner Green stated he has not seen much progression with this position and was ready to alleviate Mr. Morris of some of his duties. They do not have another 3 months for interim.

Chair Hinson mentioned having a special meeting on Monday regarding this to know about the timeframe.

Commissioner Green asked to add Boys & Girls club to the special meeting.

**14. Interim County Administrator**

No updates.

**15. Discussion Items by Commissioners**

**15.a. Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2**

June 13 in Havana – Senior Father’s Day celebration at 10 a.m. at Eugene Lamb Park.

Commissioner Simpkins asked about strategic planning meeting being scheduled. Mr. Morris stated they will reach out to the board.

Attorney Baptiste asked that they go back to his comment section to bring up something that needs to be reflected in the minutes.

Commissioner Simpkins stated hats off to TDC for Pro-am water ski tournament.

**15.b. Commissioner Shawn Wood, District 3**

No updates.

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

Commissioner Holt mentioned first housing meeting at 6 p.m.

**15.d. Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5**

Commissioner Green mentioned his workshop next Thursday.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR HOUSING AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.**

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

Chair Hinson mentioned Sheriff Young and discussing mental health/ senior awareness at Carter Parramore on June 4 at 10 a.m.

Chair Hinson thanked the City of Midway and Gretna for May Day. He also mentioned bonds and stated they need a meeting.

**16. Motion to Adjourn**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HINSON  
DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:11 PM.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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

**ATTEST:**

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**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**