

AT A WORKSHOP HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JULY 8, 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  
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk  
Leann Jinks, Clerk Secretary

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

Vice- Chair Green called the workshop to order at 6:11 p.m. and led into invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

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

Vice-Chair Green read aloud the above statement.

*Commissioner Wood stepped out at 6:13 p.m. and returned at 6:13 p.m.*

**Richard Copeland, 125 Max Herrin Rd. Chattahoochee, FL**

*Chair Hinson appeared at 6:13 p.m.*

Mr. Copeland appeared to discuss a railroad track issue on Max Herrin Road and paving. They can see spikes coming out of the railroad and was hoping someone could address it.

Mr. Morris stated Max Herrin Road is on the list to be paved. He will reach out to someone regarding the railroad issue.

**Aracely Cruz, 71 Pontiac Dr. Quincy, FL**

Ms. Cruz appeared before the board to speak on behalf of United Voices of Gadsden that speaks up against discrimination. They stand in solidarity with the peaceful protestors in the Everglades.

**Jenita Jimou, 20 Stevens Dr.**

Ms. Jimou appeared before the board to speak on the lack of digital presence. Gadsden County should be more uniformed in the way documents are available to the public.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she was glad that Ms. Jimou addressed the lack of digital presence in this county. They need things available online; they use too much paper.

**5. General Business**

**5.a. Introduction**

**5.b. Budget Workshop #2**

Mr. Morris mentioned TRIM and stated the time for the special meeting on September 15 has been changed to 6 p.m. and the special meeting for September 30 is now at 6 p.m. as well.

Ms. Raynak appeared and stated tonight they were going to take a deep dive into the process of the millage rate and TRIM.

The appraised taxable value for this year is approximately 2.4 billion dollars. The appraised property value will go up about \$112 million for this year. When the value goes up, the rate that they pay in mills generates money that comes to the county to pay for the general fund and activities in the county. The roll back rate is at 8.6383 mills. She needed direction on what they wanting to do with the millage rate.

Commissioner Holt stated they asked for certain things under 9 millages like employee raises. Ms. Raynak stated the board would have to give direction on what they want to do with salaries.

*Commissioner Wood stepped out at 6:46 p.m.*

Commissioner Simpkins stated she wanted to make sure they are addressing additional resources for citizens and the digital divide.

*Commissioner Wood returned at 6:50 p.m.*

Ms. Raynak mentioned expenses increasing due to extra staff like Public Works.

Chair Hinson asked about future possibilities with spending dollars.

Ms. Raynak stated there was new legislation that just came out that showed the impact on rural counties was going to be very significant for things like Social Security, Medicaid, SNAP. For the administrative cost in 2027-2028 for Medicaid and SNAP programs, the county is going to be asked to support 25% more of what they already support. She likes to call them unfunded mandates and that piece alone is a huge one. They need to be careful when talking about

reserves and what they are preparing for in 4,5 years down the road. All rural counties are going to be severely impacted by that legislation.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she wanted to go line by line and then decide what they want to do; she was not sure why they made this a workshop. 9.5 millage was not an option for her, if they need to stay at 9, then they will.

Commissioner Wood stated he agreed partly with Commissioner Simpkins. He was not ready to lower that number until they figure out what this new legislation means to them.

Commissioner Green stated based on the mandates they know they are going to have, it is probably going to be impossible to stay at the 9-millage rate. They have to be realistic and they probably will not be able to support non-profits. He was looking at raising the millage.

Commissioner Holt mentioned 50% cut in their revenue for Medicaid/Medicare. Ms. Raynak stated she spoke with Mr. Ford and they looked at some cash receipts coming in for Medicaid and reimbursements and the reimbursements he was getting were close to the \$500,000 or \$600,000 mark. They could take a look at that cut.

Chair Hinson asked Mr. Morris about EMS in Midway. Mr. Moore stated they just received the signed contract today. Chair Hinson asked when would the EMS workers go back. Mr. Morris stated he was not gotten in touch with the chief yet, he just received the contract.

Chief Ford appeared and stated the moving date was June 1 for the EMS workers to go back to Midway. They were waiting on a shoreline to be installed. Chair Hinson stated he did not understand the lack of urgency and questioned what the holdup was. Chief Ford stated he has reached out multiple times to get this process started. This was not on City of Midway, what they were waiting on was the shoreline being installed.

Commissioner Simpkins asked who would be responsible for installing the shorelines and Chief Ford stated that would be with facilities with the county. Mr. Morris stated he will reach out to City of Midway; shorelines can be installed in one day.

Chair Hinson suggested cutting 10% across all departments, not talking about staff. Commissioner Green stated they do not know what would need to be cut; they need to dig deeper into numbers.

Commissioner Holt and Commissioner Green both suggested a 9.5 millage rate.

Ms. Raynak asked if they could move the time for the next budget workshop, since they are planning on making it lengthy. Chair Hinson suggested 4 p.m.

Chair Hinson asked if there were any public comments and there were none.

5.c. Questions

6. Motion to Adjourn

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HINSON  
DECLARED THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED AT 7:42 PM.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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ERIC F. HINSON, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

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NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk