

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR  
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON AUGUST 5,  
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  
Louis Baptiste, Interim County Attorney  
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk

1. Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Hinson called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. Ms. Grant led into invocation and Chair Hinson led into the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Amendments to the Agenda

Chair Hinson stated the below amendments.

Request to add under General Business:

*Item 11.j. Approval of the CDBG-DR EMS Quincy Grant Agreement M0026 Letter to Florida Commerce Requesting Amendment #2 to Extend the Agreement Expiration Date through September 30, 2027.*

*Item 11.k. Approval of Health Insurance Rates*

*Item 11.l. Dewberry Engineers, Inc. Contract Amendment No. 1 for Stevens School COVID-19 Shelter Project*

*Item 11.m. Contract Amendment No. 1 to Agreement with Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC) for Gadsden County Comprehensive Vulnerability Assessment*

*Item 11.n. Requesting Board approval of the Modification #1 of the Emergency Operations Center and Public Safety Complex Agreement #F0098*

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 TO APPROVE.

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

7. **Consent**

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

**7.a Ratification Memo**

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

1. June 3, 2025, Regular BOCC Meeting
2. June 17, 2025, Regular BOCC Meeting
3. June 11, 2025, Special Meeting
4. June 30, 2025, Special Meeting
5. July 8, 2025, Special Meeting
6. June 2, 2025, Workshop
7. June 3, 2025, Workshop
8. July 8, 2025, Workshop

**7.c. Approval and Signatures for Satisfaction of Special Assessment Lien**

**7.d. – Approval and Ratification of Proclamation Honoring Devarjaye “DJ” Daniel**

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.

**Tiffany Northington**

Ms. Northington appeared and read aloud a letter from Susan Cave who lost her son due to Kratom products.

**Kate MacFall, 1206 Walton Dr. Tallahassee, FL**

Ms. MacFall appeared to discuss animal services.

**Ben Naselius, Tallahassee, FL**

Mr. Naselius stated he represents Tall Timbers and they have some grant projects that he would like to share with the board. Their first project is with the Regional Conservation Partnership Program. Their second project is with the Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation.

**Lemonteh' Horne, 4434 Gearhart Rd Tallahassee, FL**

Mr. Horne appeared before the board to discuss economic development.

**Derrick Elias, Quincy, FL**

Mr. Elias appeared to see where they are at with the Boys & Girls Club. He asked if they were still considering putting it next to the Joe Ferulito center. He stated The City of Quincy allowed them to explore that option so now the ball is in their court.

Chair Hinson stated they will have an emergency meeting soon on this and will let Mr. Elias know.

**Rev. Charles Flowers, 799 Friday Rd. Quincy, FL 32352**

Mr. Flowers appeared to talk about Pine Grove Park in the St. Hebron community. He thanked them for work already done. It is under construction but it has not been completed. He wanted to know when they thought it would be completed.

Commissioner Green suggested for the park director to come before the board. Chair Hinson stated he would prefer to hear from the administrator about this first.

*Commissioner Holt stepped out at 6:35 p.m.*

*Commissioner Holt returned at 6:36 p.m.*

Chair Hinson mentioned a commissioner pulling equipment out of someone else's district and taking it elsewhere. He stated they need to be fair and there are certain commissioners who say that they should not be funding parks at all. Now, all of a sudden, parks are a priority.

Commissioner Green stated this was his first time hearing that a commissioner took something out of someone else's park. He stated they cannot make false accusations.

**Ethelyn Cunningham, 390 Grace Cunningham Rd. Quincy, FL**

Ms. Cunningham appeared to also discuss Pine Grove Park. She mentioned that there was no restroom and the swing set was too little as well. She would like for it to be completed.

**Vivian Grant, 65 Bailey Loop Quincy, FL**

Ms. Grant appeared to also discuss Pine Grove Park. She stated she heard a commissioner was concerned about there being 2 parks out there. She mentioned the first park on Fontana Road and stated it was their understanding that it was not just for the St. Hebron community, this

park was supposed to be developed and have a housing area for meetings and activities. The park that they are asking about is for the kids in the St. Hebron/St. Matthew community.

Commissioner Simpkins thanked the St. Hebron & St. Matthew community for showing up. She stated this was about being fair. This was not about her; it's about the community. She stated a comment was made that St. Hebron has 2 parks when it does not. Staff went out there and even discussed designs with citizens but they are at a standstill with St. Hebron. She stated they need to stop making things personal and they need to work together. She is requesting for this item to be on the next meeting's agenda for a vote.

**10. Public Hearing**

**10.a. Approval of Resolution 2025-037 Budget Amendments for FY25**

Mr. Baptiste presented this item on behalf of Mr. Morris.

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

**10.b. Approval of Bid Award to CWR Contracting, Inc. for Ben Bostick Resurfacing**

Mr. Baptiste presented the above item.

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

**11. General Business**

**11.a. Approval of the Finance Office to Process Payment for Matthew 25: Ministries**

Mr. Baptiste presented the above item. He stated that the Board previously approved this payment, but because of wording, the Clerk was not able to pay it. Therefore, it comes before them again to be approved with the correct wording this time.

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

**11.b. Conference Attendance Request for the Planning and Zoning Commission to Attend Upcoming Urban Planning Conference September 16-19, 2025, in Daytona Beach, Florida**

Mr. Baptiste presented the above item. He stated there is a fiscal cost to the county.

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

**11.c. Approval to Use Opioid Settlement Funds for FY25-26 Implementation Plan**

Mr. Baptiste presented the above item.

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

**11.d. Approval of Donation to Toys for Tots Funding**

Mr. Baptiste presented the above item.

Chair Hinson stated he would like to table this item and talk to Mr. Morris about it first.  
Commissioner Green stated they are aware of what this organization brings and they want to make sure to support it.

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

**11.e. Approval of the 2025 Partnership Memorandum of Understanding between the State of Florida Department of Elder Affairs and the Gadsden County BOCC Department of Elderly Affairs**

Mr. Baptiste presented the above item.

Commissioner Holt stated she cannot vote on this due to being a farmer.

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

**11.f. Approval of accepting the 2025-2026 State Emergency Management Preparedness and Assistance Agreement #A0589**

Mr. Baptiste presented the above item.

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

**11.g. Approval to Issue the Notice of Intent to Award, the Notice of Award, and to Negotiate a Contract with CRA for the Design Plan for the Public Safety Complex/EOC in Response to the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) 25-02 Professional Architectural/Engineering (AE) Services.**

Mr. Baptiste presented the above item.

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

**11.h. Approval to make an Appointment to the Juvenile Justice Circuit Advisory Board**

Mr. Baptiste presented the above item.

**COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION TO APPOINT COMMISSIONER WOOD TO THE JUVENILE JUSTICE CIRCUIT ADVISORY BOARD AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**11.i. Approval to make Appointments to the Gadsden Industrial Development Authority**

Mr. Baptiste presented the above item.

Commissioner Holt asked if they re-applied for their license. Mr. Baptiste stated he was not aware.

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

**11.j. Approval of the CDBG-DR EMS Quincy Grant Agreement M0026 Letter to Florida Commerce Requesting Amendment #2 to Extend the Agreement Expiration Date through September 30, 2027.**

Mr. Baptiste presented the above item.

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

**11.k. Approval of Health Insurance Rates**

Mr. Baptiste presented the above item.

Chair Hinson stated to table this item.

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

**11.l. Dewberry Engineers, Inc. Contract Amendment No. 1 for Stevens School COVID-19 Shelter Project**

Mr. Baptiste presented the above item.

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

**11.m. Contract Amendment No. 1 to Agreement with Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC) for Gadsden County Comprehensive Vulnerability Assessment**

Mr. Baptiste presented the above item.

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

*Commissioner Wood stepped out at 7:14 p.m.*

**11.n. Requesting Board approval of the Modification #1 of the Emergency Operations Center and Public Safety Complex Agreement #F0098**

Mr. Baptiste presented the above item.

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

*Commissioner Wood returned at 7:15 p.m.*

**11.o. County Administrator Position Update**

Mr. Baptiste presented the above item. He stated Human Resources has been in contact with the Florida Association of County Administrators. They are working to provide them a tentative timeline.

Commissioner Green stated they have had several changes on handling this and is looking forward to FAC continuing this process.

Commissioner Holt stated they need help on this budget. This has been a lot of stress on Mr. Morris.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO OFFER THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR POSITION TO ROBERT PRESNELL. THE BOARD WENT INTO DISCUSSION.**

Chair Hinson stated that would need a special meeting first. They could get penalized for this. Commissioner Holt stated they normally do not follow that process. They need at least 2 or 3 people working on this budget.

Mr. Baptiste mentioned the possibility of a sunshine violation if they entertain the motion. All government business has to be advertised and noticed. Commissioner Holt stated if that were the case, they would have advertised for it before. Her concern is getting this budget done and Mr. Presnell has done this work before. Mr. Baptiste stated he cannot give legal advice on things this board has done before he joined.

Commissioner Green stated he was confident they are going to be o.k. with this budget, but he was sure Ms. Raynak could use more eyes on this budget. Wants to go through process again before voting for a new county administrator.

Commissioner Wood stated Mr. Presnell has done amazing things in Chattahoochee. He asked if Commissioner Holt was considering Mr. Presnell was for an interim or permanent position. Commissioner Holt stated maybe for a year.

Commissioner Wood stated Mr. Presnell would be great, but they also have other candidates. He would like a meeting soon on this.

Chair Hinson stated that the motion made earlier by Commissioner Holt would die due to a lack of second.

**12. Clerk of Court**

No updates.

**13. County Attorney**

Mr. Baptiste stated they had an appeal with Ms. Bopp, owner of Champs Chance, and the county prevailed in the hearing.

**14. County Administrator**

No updates.

**15. Discussion Items by Commissioners**

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

Commissioner Simpkins thanked all who came out to the back-to-school house supply at Fontana Trail. She also thanked public works for their assistance.

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

Commissioner Wood mentioned that the Planning & Zoning Board were going to vote next week on putting alcohol near churches. He did not think they should be talking about a bar moving next to a church right now.

Mr. Baptiste stated it was not proper to talk about it at this moment. Commissioner Wood asked who determines what gets on the agenda for the Planning board. Mr. Baptiste stated the Planning & Zoning Department makes recommendations to the Planning & Zoning Board. One of the recommendations was to amend the setback requirement to zero.

Commissioner Wood mentioned getting these buildings moving forward. He never thought the Boys & Girls Club would become such a huge issue. He would like combined effort with the city if it is done next to the Joe Ferulito center.

Commissioner Wood mentioned first responders and parks. He also mentioned finishing Stevens School.

Commissioner Wood mentioned cuts and stated they need to figure out how to get rid of duplicate services.

Commissioner Green wanted to make it clear that they have not mismanaged funds, they just have to be more careful with spending.

**COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR NEW BETHEL AME CHURCH ANNIVERSARY AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**



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

Commissioner Holt mentioned parks. She stated parks need their own funding.

Commissioner Holt stated they need an in-house program related to opioids.

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

Commissioner Green thanked Commissioner Simpkins, Chair Hinson, AKA's, Alpha's regarding back-to-school events. He recommended for commissioners to visit a school and greet kids going back to school.

Commissioner Green mentioned them tabling the health insurance rates item. He stated open house starts soon. Mr. Baptiste stated the board has tabled this item so they cannot move back to it.

Commissioner Green asked if this would have an impact on open house. Mr. Baptiste stated not necessarily. The employees are already insured, this item just decides who absorbs the 7.4 increase. It does not directly relate to open enrollment.

Commissioner Green mentioned McCook's Road and had questions for Mr. Morris and Mr. Young about it.

Commissioner Green mentioned a 9-year-old child passing away due to diabetes. He wanted to bring awareness that kids were not exempt from having these medical issues.

**COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION FOR THE 98<sup>TH</sup> CHURCH ANNIVERSARY FOR MISSION BAPTIST CHURCH AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.**

Commissioner Holt mentioned treasure hunt at black churches and collecting history.

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

**CHAIR HINSON MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR SAM PALMER AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.**

Chair Hinson mentioned New Jerusalem Baptist church hosting back-to-school event.

Chair Hinson mentioned hosting a community resource fair for back-to-school on August 10, from 2- 5p.m. at Eugene Lamb recreation center. He would love for them to bring in soap, toiletry, etc. He also mentioned kids needing headphones.

**16. Motion to Adjourn**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HINSON  
DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:07 PM.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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**Eric F. Hinson, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners**

**ATTEST:**

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**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**