

AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR  
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON AUGUST 26,  
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  
Reginald James, Interim County Administrator  
Louis Baptiste, Interim County Attorney  
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk

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

Vice- Chair Green called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Pastor Farr led into invocation and Commissioner Green led into the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

*Commissioner Simpkins appeared at 6:04 p.m.*

4. **Amendments to the Agenda**

No amendments.

5. **Approval of Agenda**

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED AND COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.**

6. **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).

Vice-Chair Green read aloud the above statement.

**Cathy Farr, 564 Middle Creek Rd. Quincy, FL**

Ms. Farr appeared before the board to discuss the notice of proposed property taxes. She requested a millage rate of 8.7.

**William Farr, 564 Middle Creek Rd. Quincy, FL**

Mr. Farr appeared before the board to discuss the notice of proposed property taxes. He also requested a millage rate of 8.7.

*Chair Hinson appeared at 6:10 p.m.*

**7. General Business**

**7.a. Finalization of the Tentative Budget for FY 25-26**

Mr. James stated it was going to be a tight budget year so they would need to reduce expenditures. He mentioned reducing the 89 county vehicles and cutting the cost of insurance and maintenance. He stated he took out COLA from the budget to help cut costs. Also, the phase 2 raises were not budgeted and wanted advise from the board on how to proceed.

Commissioner Green asked what was the projective cut on vehicles and any other cuts they are making. He stated although the items may not be budgeted, they did vote to approve for it to be in the budget for phase 2. Ms. Raynak stated she was not sure if the board approved it, but at the request from Mr. James they pulled it out of the budget right now just to see how it would lay out. She stated they have not put a dollar amount to the cut of county vehicles at the moment, but she assumed they were going to save a couple \$100,000 a year. She recommended for the board to go out and look at insurance and a bid process. It could be a potential cost savings to the county.

Mr. James mentioned the Medium4 contract and their pay history. He asked why were they spending so much money on an outside vendor to do PR work when they have hired a PR person to do it.

Mr. James stated another issue was that they paid registration cars for them to attend a conference. He did not know a public entity that does that. He recommended that they terminate the \$200,000 contract with Medium4.

Mr. Baptiste stated there are 2 current contracts that were approved by the board. The contract that Mr. James was referring to was \$150,000 and the board agreed to a 3-year agreement for \$450,000. He was evaluating whether or not the board could terminate that contract. It was not agenda item tonight and requested to get this on another agenda.

Commissioner Green stated marketing is an expensive tool and the company has re-branded the whole look of this county. He stated his concern was not addressed regarding the employee raises.

Mr. James stated he was just trying to make the public understand where the money was being spent. They did not need to go look for another PIO.

Commissioner Holt stated there was a reason for the 2 Medium4 contracts. They have not gotten anyone cheaper for the TDC. She stated she was interested in the COLA because the cost of living was going up.

*Commissioner Green stepped out at 6:31 p.m.*

Mr. Baptiste stated the salary schedule was not a part of the agenda and the tentative budget. He asked to get back to the agenda. Commissioner Holt stated the 15 employees should have been put into the budget.

Ms. Raynak stated for personnel costs, the only increase was for FRS and health insurance. For operational costs, the only increases they have had are things like utilities, insurance, and fuel.

The County Administrator's focus is on expenditures that are dedicated to program improvement and public service to provide maximum return on investment to taxpayers. Ms. Raynak stated about 50% of the budget improvements and increases are going to be in the emergency services area. 20% of it will be in economic development, 5% in staffing, and 5% in parks/libraries/Boys-Girls.

Ms. Raynak read aloud the administrative priorities for 2025-2026:

- Finalize all pending large building projects
- Review/revise all services and contracts to determine necessity and competitiveness of cost for services
- Review/revise staffing levels, policies, and procedures to ensure that they are all positively impacting the delivery of more efficient and effective service to public
- Build/strengthen bridges with community to ensure we are addressing and responding to their needs

Ms. Raynak stated their goal tonight was to move forward with the tentative budget that will be published. This budget will be discussed in a public hearing on September 15 where the public has the chance to put their input. Ms. Raynak recommended to retain the 2024-2025 millage levels.

Chair Hinson asked what was the amount last year for veteran services. Ms. Raynak stated last year, they were budgeted at \$266,354. This year was \$216,132. Some of those cuts came because of adjustments in the Enterprise leases. For senior citizens, they had no budget last year, and this year they have an amount of \$72,000.

Cathy Farr appeared before the board again and stated she appreciated the Interim Administrator and Commissioner Simpkins stating that they want to be fiscally conservative. She mentioned the PowerPoint presentation and stated it showed a lot of increases. She would love to see the millage rate under 9.0.

*Commissioner Wood stepped out at 7:28 p.m. and returned at 7:30 p.m.*

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FY 25-26 AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS AND COMMISSIONER WOOD OPPOSED.**

8. **Motion to Adjourn**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HINSON  
DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:43 PM.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

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

**ATTEST:**

---

**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**