

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON SEPTEMBER 2,
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

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

Commissioner Simpkins arrived at 6:04 p.m.

4. Amendments to the Agenda

Mr. James requested to pull from the Consent agenda item 7.c., SHIP Annual Report and Certification.

Mr. James also requested to add the below items under General Business:

- Item 11.h Approval of Tammy Jimenez’s appointment to the Gadsden County Board of Planning Commission.
- Item 11.i Approval Funding Re-Allocation to Support Gadsden County Senior Services
- Item 11.j Approval to Accept DOH Funding and a Proposal from Handtevy for an EMS Lifesaving Mobile Application, Training, and Support
- Item 11.k Approval for Florida Department of Law Enforcement Salary Assistance for Fiscally Constrained Counties Grant
- Item 11.l Approval of No-Cost Amendment No. 1 to Construction Contract with Sandco, LLC – South Adams Street Sidewalk LAP Project
- Item 11.m Approval of Marty Spears’s appointment to the Gadsden County Board of Planning Commission

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

7.a Ratification Memo

7.b BOCC Meeting/Workshop Minutes

1. August 4, 2025, Budget Workshop
2. August 5, 2025, Regular BOCC Meeting
3. August 11, 2025, Special Meeting
4. August 14, 2025, Special Meeting
5. August 19, 2025, Regular BOCC Meeting

7.c. SHIP Annual Report and Certification

7.d. Approval and Signatures for Satisfaction of Special Assessment Lien

7.e. Approval and Signatures for Special Assessment Liens and Contracts-SHIP

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 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.

Chair Hinson read aloud the above statement.

Carolyn Ford, 526 Key St. Quincy, Fl

Ms. Ford appeared before the board to discuss Stevens School. She stated she was a part of the process of writing the grant for the school. She was concerned because the commissioners work for the community and she did not know where they stood.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPEAL TO ALLOW COMMISSIONER COMMENTS ON THIS SUBJECT AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Holt stated Ms. Ford was correct on this issue. She stated the committee for Stevens School did not have any say on when they were doing the ribbon cutting. They need to have input on this because they have worked on it for 7 years. Also, they should not schedule a ribbon cutting on a Friday due to less coverage on it.

Gary Murray

Mr. Murray appeared before the board to discuss Woodberry Road issues. Mr. Baptiste provided an update on this road. They will send additional notices in 30 days before they take the next step.

10. Public Hearing

11. General Business

11.a. Approval of Barineau Road Over Willachoochee Creek Bridge Rehabilitation Notice of Award, Supplemental Agreement, Task Order, Resolution

Mr. James presented the above item.

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

11.b. Board Direction and Approval of Resolution 2025-045 Gadsden County Development Council Amendment for FY2025

Mr. James presented the above item.

Mr. Baptiste stated they should have pulled this item for it to go under a public hearing.

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

11.c. Approval of CEI Task for WSB for the Providence Road (CR 274) Widening and Resurfacing

Mr. James presented the above item.

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

11.d. Approval of CEI Task Work Order for Dogtown Road (CR 161A) Widening and Resurfacing

Mr. James presented the above item.

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

11.e. Approval of the Updated William M. Inman Agricultural Pavilion and Grounds Rental Agreement (2025)

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 TO APPROVE.

11.f. Approval of the Updated MOU between the Gadsden County Board of County Commission and the Gadsden County Soil and Water Conservation District for governmental support

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 TO APPROVE.

11.g. Approval of the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (COPCN) for Survival Flight, Inc.

Mr. Baptiste presented the above item.

Janet Hardman and Trent Robinson appeared. Ms. Hardman stated part of their MOU was for Survival Flight to provide training. They are also interested in including an EMT program.

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

11.h. Approval of Tammy Jimenez's appointment to the Gadsden County Board of Planning Commission

Mr. James presented the above item.

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

11.i. Approval Funding Re-Allocation to Support Gadsden County Senior Services

Mr. Baptiste asked to pull this item due to it also requiring a public hearing.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO PULL THIS ITEM AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Holt stated they have a citizen requesting to be heard on this item. Chair Hinson stated they could not talk about it due to it being pulled. Commissioner Wood stated he would like to hear the citizen speak.

Mr. Baptiste stated there could be a motion to revisit section 9 that allows public comments.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO ALLOW PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THIS ITEM AND COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

Avis Woods, 719 Strom Rd. Quincy, FL

Ms. Woods appeared before the board. She mentioned having a program put in place for the seniors in the Sawdust community.

11.j. Approval to Accept DOH Funding and a Proposal from Handtevy for an EMS Lifesaving Mobile Application, Training, and Support

Mr. James presented the above item.

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

11.k. Approval for Florida Department of Law Enforcement Salary Assistance for Fiscally Constrained Counties Grant

Mr. James presented the above item.

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

11.l. Approval of No-Cost Amendment No. 1 to Construction Contract with Sandco, LLC – South Adams Street Sidewalk LAP Project (FPID 436992-1-58-01)

Mr. James presented the above item.

Derrick Elias, P.O. Box 2171

Mr. Elias appeared before the board. He mentioned South Adams Street needing a water main; there are a lot of draining issues. He asked why put down those sidewalks now knowing that the street and water main issue will have to be addressed.

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

11.m. Approval of Marty Spears's appointment to the Gadsden County Board of Planning Commission

Mr. James presented the above item.

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

12. Clerk of Court

No updates.

13. County Attorney

Mr. Baptiste mentioned a traffic crash that occurred in 2023 that damaged portions of a bridge. The county already paid to fix the bridge and recommended that the board accept the insured limits.

14. County Administrator

Mr. James stated he appreciated Ms. Ford and Ms. Woods coming to speak.

Mr. Baptiste stated Mr. James did reach out to his office and attempted to place the CRA contract for the EOC & Sheriff building on tonight's agenda. They had to pull it because they did not get a cost table on time. It will be on the next meeting.

Mr. James mentioned the vehicle issue and trying to rectify it. They are going to meet with Enterprise to try to eliminate some of these challenges. He mentioned the type of county vehicles they have and it being unusual since they are a fiscally-constrained county. He stated they do need some vans for the senior citizens.

Commissioner Green stated they need to look at what direction they want to go with for permanent legal services.

15. Discussion Items by Commissioners

15.a. Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2

Commissioner Simpkins asked if they could address the trees and limbs at Attapulgas Highway.

Commissioner Simpkins stated to not remain a house divided as they are stronger together. She stated for them to put their personal opinions and agendas to the side for the best interest of the county.

15.b. Commissioner Shawn Wood, District 3

Commissioner Wood had concerns about buildings and asked for a special meeting.

Commissioner Wood mentioned Stevens School and wanted an update on it every 2 weeks.

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

Commissioner Holt stated it was important that they have a strategic plan.

Commissioner Holt stated there are several people wanting to know what they are going to do with the program for Stevens School and the funding.

Commissioner Holt stated she discussed with the attorney having a legal software to look up cases. She would like for him to bring the cost of that software.

Commissioner Holt believed that no matter how much money they have in the bank, it should be used for a hospital.

15.d. Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5

Commissioner Green asked how do they discuss concerns they may have even when it relates to employment. Mr. Baptiste stated if a member of this commission makes a public statement regarding an on-going employee situation, that statement could bind the commission. That commissioner could be called as a witness to take a position against the county. The administrator controls day-to-day operations and a comment from a commissioner could be seen as them encroaching on the administrator's abilities. A commissioner is allowed to question the administrator.

Commissioner Green stated they need to make sure they are getting quality people that show up to the Planning & Zoning meetings.

Commissioner Green mentioned the animal shelter and possibly re-locating it. He stated they could possibly move it across the jail on Pat Thomas Parkway and having inmates help out at the shelter. He will get with the administrator on this.

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

Chair Hinson mentioned needing lighting. He also wanted them to bring forth every contract they have in general.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 8:17 p.m.

Chair Hinson requested for all the commissioners be sent a copy of the bond they had for around 6 million for road paving. He also stated they need to have a meeting on bonds.

16. Motion to Adjourn

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HINSON
DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:22 PM.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk