AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON OCTOBER 21, 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 6:00 p.m. Vice-Chair Green led into invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Amendments to the Agenda

Mr. James requested the below amendments:

Pull under general business items 11.c., 11.d. 11. e., 11.g.

Add under Public Hearing items 10.c. and 10.d.

Add under General Business items 11.h. and 11.i.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE ABOVE AMENDMENTS AND COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.

5. Approval of Agenda

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED AND COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.

6. Awards, Presentations, and Appearances

6.a. Recognition of Ms. Dorothy Gunn Wood

Chair Hinson presented the recognition to Ms. Dorothy Gunn Wood.

7. Consent

COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.

7.a Ratification Memo

7.b BOCC Meeting/Workshop Minutes
1. September 30, 2025, Boys & Girls Club Meeting
2. October 7, 2025, BOCC Meeting

7.c. Approval of Signature for Special Assessment Liens-Foreclosure Prevention Assistance-SHIP

7.d. Approval to Accept the State-Funded Agreement (DMS-P2-25-07-09) between Gadsden County and the FL Department of Management Services

7.e. Approval of the Renewal of EMS Reporting Software Subscription

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.

Kate McFall, 1206 Walton Dr. Tallahassee, FL
Ms. McFall appeared regarding animal services. She mentioned the possibility of moving animal services to the Sheriff's office and stated she had concerns over those changes.

10. PUBLIC HEARING

10.a. Approval for Resolutions 2025-054 & 2025-055 to balance the Fine & Forfeiture FY 24-25 Budget

Mr. James presented the above item and stated there was a fiscal impact of $25,000 due to higher-than-expected costs of property insurance.

Derrick Elias, P.O. Box 2171
Mr. Elias asked to elaborate more on this item and what the forfeiture fines entail.

Ms. Raynak appeared before the board and stated this was regarding the Sheriff's budget. Last year, they budgeted about $60,000 for property insurance, but the property insurance came out to be about $75,000. Earlier this year, there were some other over expenditures in the lower part of the budget, so the Clerk asked them to move $85,000 to get it balanced.

Commissioner Green advised, in the future, to have the finance director give the explanation first before allowing public comments.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE ITEM 10.A. AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.

10.b. Approval for Resolution 2025-056 and Budget Amendment 2025-88 to set up budget for unanticipated revenues and expenses to a Capital Project for Public Works in FY24-25 Budget

Mr. James presented the above item. Ms. Raynak appeared and stated this was to set up the budget for FY24-25 Fund 313 Capital Project for Public Works Road Paving Project. The Revenue and Expense budget was already created but no budget was set up. There was additional revenue realized from interest of $24,101.35 and there were expenditures of $92,209.89 during FY24-25 to do improvements on the roads. To have a balanced budget for this Fund for ending FY24-25, the expense and revenue budgets must be set up accordingly. There will be no fiscal impact due to this request.

Derrick Elias appeared again and asked what was the total amount. Ms. Raynak stated $24,101.35 in interest, and expenditures were $92,209.89.

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE ITEM 10.B. AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.

10.c. Approval of Resolution 2026-002 Budget Amendment for FY25-26 Sheriff's Department

Mr. James stated this item seeks board approval to add revenue that was requested and never rewarded to the Sheriff's Department in the 2025-26 budgeting process.

Ms. Raynak appeared and provided background on this item. This agenda item seeks board approval of adding $594,428 to the 2025-26 budget for the Sheriff's Department from the fund balance. $384,428 is proposed to be added to the main transfer to the Sheriff's Law Enforcement budget bringing them to their requested increase level. $210,00 is proposed to be set aside in a line item specifically dedicated to the hiring and employment of three additional night-time deputies. During 2024-25 fiscal year, the City of Midway reimbursed the county for a share of its CRA funding which was unused. This funding went to the general fund's fund balance and is adequate enough to cover the budget request without a negative impact to the remainder of the fund balance.

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

Chair Hinson asked if task force was included in this and Mr. James stated yes.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE ITEM 10.C. AND COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.

10.d. Approval of Resolution 2026-001 Grant Budget Amendment for FY2026

Mr. James presented this item. Ms. Raynak appeared and stated that prior to the adoption of the budget, Finance was asked to ensure that Emergency Management Services was funded at an increased level. After submission of the final budget to the Clerk's Office, the Interfund Transfer Expense Budget was found to be missing revenues from three different fund budgets.

Chair Hinson asked if there were any public comments and there were none. He asked if they could take the money from Midway and use for this. Ms. Raynak stated they could ask for a budget amendment for that.

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE ITEM 10.D. AND COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

11.a. Approval of Modification No.2 which extends the expiration date of the Hurricane Shelter Retrofit Agreement #F0100

Mr. James presented the above item and stated the original agreement expired on August 31, 2025. This modification extends the agreement period to August 31, 2026.

COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE ITEM 11.A. AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.

11.b. Approval of Resolution 2025-053 Grant Budget Amendment for FY 2025

Mr. James presented the above item.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE ITEM 11.B. AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.

11.c. ~~Approval of Fire and Rescue Interlocal Agreement Between Gadsden County and the Town of Havana~~

11.d. ~~Approval of Resolution 2025-057 Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce Agreement for FY2025~~

11.e. ~~Approval of Resolution 2026-001 Grant Budget Amendment for FY25-26 Sheriff's Department~~

11.f. Approval of Renewal of Contract for Federal Lobbyist Services

Mr. James presented the above item. Ms. Raynak appeared and stated the Federal Lobbyist contract renewal was set to expire on November 14, 2025.

Commissioner Wood asked if they were present and stated he was not going to give $90,000 to someone that does not show up.

COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE A MOTION TO NOT APPROVE THIS ITEM AND TO PUT OUT AN RFP. COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND AND THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Wood stepped out at 6:51 p.m.

11.g. ~~**Approval to Amend the existing Volunteer Fire Department Contracts to allow for a 5% increase from base funding for the next 2 years of their contracts**~~

11.h. Approval of Resolution No. 2026-003 Designating Administrative Authority for Plat and Replat Approvals Pursuant to Senate Bill 784
Mr. James presented the above item.

Commissioner Wood returned at 6:52 p.m.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE ITEM 11.H. AND COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.

11.i. Approval of LAP Expiration of Agreement/Time Extension for 436992-1-CR 268 Adams St from CR 274 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd to Clark St.
Mr. James presented the above item.

Mr. Baptiste stated this was regarding the South Adams Street sidewalk project. They are having to negotiate with a different EOR in the same company to have them perform the services. FDOT will not approve them to start construction until they have solidified an EOR for inspections. This item allows them to have an extension to solidify that agreement

Commissioner Simpkins asked if City of Quincy has their obligation piece. Mr. Baptiste stated the City of Quincy has committed to their financial obligation and if they do not do it, they will be in breach.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE ITEM 11.I. AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.

12. Clerk of Court
No updates.

13. County Attorney
Mr. Baptiste requested a workshop regarding the Kratom substance and stated he has drafted an ordinance. Commissioner Green asked for it to be a special meeting so action can be taken.

Mr. Baptiste mentioned a procurement policy and having a special meeting on that as well.

14. County Administrator
Mr. James stated he has met with Enterprise and they will have the first phase of the Vehicle Reduction Plan on the agenda in the next regular meeting. It will outline the savings the county will receive by returning the high-end vehicles. In that same packet, they will include a recommendation for a policy change for the usage of the county vehicles.

Mr. James mentioned their legislative agenda. The city managers have met diligently to establish the agenda and he is requesting information from the commissioners on what their priorities are in terms of the legislative agenda. They do have a focus point on lighting; citizens in rural areas have been requesting it.

Mr. James mentioned having a strategic planning session.

15. DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

15.a. Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2

Commissioner Simpkins asked for a proclamation for domestic violence awareness day for October 23rd for National Hookup of Black Women.

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION FOR PROCLAMATION FOR OCTOBER 23 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION FOR RECOGNITION FOR MS. HATTIE MAY JACKSON'S 90TH BIRTHDAY AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Holt appeared at 7:05 p.m.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned that she will be having a Town Hall meeting on November 4 at the Havana Library.

Commissioner Simpkins stated they need to make sure they are upfront and transparent. When they tell citizens something they need to make sure to tell them the entire story and give all the information. When other commissioners and other municipalities are commenting on Facebook, they need to make sure they are not misinforming citizens.

15.b. Commissioner Shawn Wood, District 3

Commissioner Wood stated it was an outstanding event at the Chattahoochee Senior Center.

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

Commissioner Holt stated they need to have that strategic plan meeting. She stated they also need to finalize what they are going to do with the county attorney and administrator contract.

15.d. Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5

Commissioner Green thanked everyone for their support during his family's difficult time.

Green asked about Planning Commission. Baptiste stated there is a planning mtg on 10/23 Hopefully will have a quorum

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR CAREERS & CONSTRUCTION MONTH AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

15.e. <u>Commissioner Eric F. Hinson, District 1</u>
Chair Hinson stated drug buy back will be on Saturday from 10-2.

16. <u>Motion to Adjourn</u>
THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HINSON DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:57 PM.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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ERIC F. HINSON, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

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NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk