

**AT A WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON
JANUARY 8, 2024 AT 4:00 PM, THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING
WAS HAD, VIZ:**

PRESENT: Ronterious Green, Chairman, District 5
Alonzetta Simpkins, Vice-Chair, District 2
Eric Hinson, District 1
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
Brenda Holt, District 4
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Steven Scott, District 2
Cathy Johnson, District 1
Leroy McMillan, District 3
Attorney Minnis
Elijah Key, Superintendent
Karema Dudley, District 5
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order, Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Green called the workshop at 4:01 p.m. and welcomed everyone. He asked Superintendent to provide the Invocation and then led into the Pledge of Allegiance to the US. Flag.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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.org 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 via Zoom using the credentials on the County's website.

Commissioner Hinson read aloud the above statement.

Sam Palmer

Mr. Palmer appeared before the Board and talked about redistricting. He recommended they use a committee.

General Business

1. Discussion regarding Gadsden County Redistricting

Mr. Dixon stated they are at the point of redistricting time. They have the County and School Board who hired Kurt Spitzer.

Kurt Spitzer appeared through ZOOM and provided a brief PowerPoint on re-districting.

Commissioner Holt appeared 4:15 pm.

Susan Erdelyi appeared through Zoom and stated they are in a very tight rope. They have to redistrict within a specific timeframe and she would strongly encourage them to stick to the deadline.

Joe Dye stated he was there to advocate for their plan. He stated that a new law kicked in on July 1. He stated race should not be a predominant factor. He presented some maps as options.

Ms. Knight stated they have election coming up March 9. She stated they cannot just go in there and start moving and changing things. They have the city election on April 30, so they have timelines. She stated petition deadline is May 14.

Commissioner Holt asked when they consider these maps, how do they do that? Mr. Dixon stated they were going to send out information and they will have an opportunity to go online and submit information.

Chair Green stated the next meeting will be January 16 at 4 pm.

Adjournment

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN DECLARED THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED AT 5:10 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

RONTERIOUS GREEN, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FL ON
JANUARY 10, 2024, THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD,
VIZ:**

Present: Ronterious Green, Chairman, District 5
Eric Hinson, District 1, appeared through ZOOM
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
Brenda Holt, District 4
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order, Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Green called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm. He thanked everyone for the work done during the storm. He provided invocation and then led into the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

Approval and Amendments to Agenda

Mr. Dixon stated there were no amendments to the agenda.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER NESMITH AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD
VOTED 3-0 TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.**

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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Chair Green read the above statement.

General Business

- 1. Approve Resolution 2024-001 Declaring a State of Emergency Regarding Governor DeSantis' Executive Order 24-03.**

Mr. Dixon stated they were there for approval of Resolution 2024-001, declaring a State of Emergency regarding Governor DeSantis' Executive Order 24-03.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
January 10, 2024 - Emergency Meeting

Mr. Knowles stated they were declaring State of Emergency in certain counties including Gadsden. This enables them to take certain steps to protect and preserve all property and assist with any necessities.

Commissioner Holt asked for a copy of the Resolution. Chair Green asked for 2 minutes for them to go through the Resolution before approving.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER NESMITH AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE THIS RESOLUTION.

Adjournment

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:11 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

RONTERIOUS GREEN, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKSHOP OF THE
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JANUARY 16, 2024 AT
4:00 PM, THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Ronterious Green, Chairman, District 5
Alonzetta Simpkins, Vice-Chair, District 2
Eric Hinson, District 1
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
Brenda Holt, District 4
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Opal McKinney-Williams, Attorney
Steven Scott, District 2
Cathy Johnson, District 1
Leroy McMillan, District 3
Deborah Minnis, Attorney
Elijah Key, Superintendent
Karema Dudley, District 5
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order, Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Green called the workshop to order at 4:00 pm. Commissioner Hinson provided Invocation and asked for a moment of silence. Chair Green led into the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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Chair Green read aloud the above statement.

General Business

1. Discussion on Redistricting

Mr. Dixon stated they have for discussion Ordinance 2024-01 for redistricting. He stated Mr. Spitzer was present to walk them through.

Mr. Spitzer stated the first thing they do is get the latest census data. Each block could tell them how many people live there and their race. When they put the current districts on top of the 2020 data, there was a 46–47-point spread, and that was way beyond the acceptable limits. He mentioned that District 1 needed to lose 2,500-2,600 people. District 3 and 4 need to gain population. District 2 and 5 were pretty close to what the new average is. Mr. Spitzer showed examples of census blocks.

Mr. Spitzer stated there were 2 maps. One was what they prepared, and the other was Plan D prepared by the ACLU. He discussed the 1A.2 Plan and stated this plan pulls most but not all of Gretna into District 4. He stated that their plan, and the ACLU plan, takes quite a few folks from parts of Midway and moves them into District 5. He stated that either plan could be amended numerous ways.

Mr. Spitzer went on to Plan D by ACLU and stated they also moved some population out of the Midway area into District 5. It also takes the Hinson community area out of District 1 and into District 2.

Commissioner Hinson asked why Hinson. Mr. Spitzer stated he did not know. Commissioner Hinson also asked how many people were in that area. Mr. Spitzer stated it was around 512 people that would be taken out of District 1 and moved into District 2.

Commissioner Hinson asked Joseph Dye to come before them. He asked if he represents ACLU. Mr. Dye stated he works for them. Commissioner Hinson asked what was his rationale for picking the Hinson community. Mr. Dye stated what they were really trying to do is balance population to make it equal as possible. The reason he picked the Hinson community was because District 1 has to lose a significant amount of population. If they were going to change District 5 and District 2, that precinct made the most sense to him. He stated it was his decision to do that and not the Board so it did not

have to be that way if they did not want to do that. Commissioner Hinson asked if he spoke with any Commissioners before the Workshop. Mr. Dye stated he spoke with Commissioner Holt briefly.

Chair Green stated they wanted to keep it as simple as possible.

Ms. Johnson asked if they were taking all of Hinson. Mr. Dye stated they just follow the precinct line. This was just a draft plan.

Commissioner Hinson asked if they received other maps from other organizations. Mr. Spitzer stated to his knowledge, they have not gotten any input from any other groups.

Chair Green asked the Attorney if they have to reach out to other entities legally. Ms. McKinney-Williams stated they do not have to reach out to them.

Commissioner Hinson asked how they made the spread. Mr. Spitzer stated the spread was a sum of the percent over the ideal population of the largest district, plus the percent under the ideal population of the smallest district. In the case of the current districts, it was 47 points.

Commissioner Hinson asked Mr. Dye how he knew about the workshop last week. Mr. Dye stated he saw it on their website and came out. Commissioner Hinson asked if he was from this area. Mr. Dye stated no, he lives in Jacksonville.

Attorney McKinney-Williams stated if there are any concerns about either map, they could make adjustments and move lines.

Ms. Johnson stated she wanted them to be mindful of the impact on Gadsden County as a whole.

Commissioner Holt stated she likes Plan D. Commissioner Hinson stated he did not feel comfortable giving his opinion. He just wanted to make sure they do not do anything that would impact the County for the next 20 years.

Chair Green stated it would have an impact regardless to the County. He wanted to make sure it was taken into consideration wholeheartedly.

Commissioner Simpkins stated it was about ensuring that all citizens are represented equally. District 2 is at a number it needs to be at, but it would be significantly impacted by this re-drawing.

Commissioner Hinson stated that before the meeting, the decisions were made already. They paid Mr. Spitzer to be a consultant. If they were paying him, why would he be the alternate.

Bishop Green asked how long have they been aware that they needed to redraw district lines. If they were aware, why have they not been working on this problem all along. Ms. Dudley stated she was made aware of this right before the holidays that this had to happen. Mr. Dixon stated the law was changed, giving you X number of days to redistrict if they fail within the variation of 10%. They were not made aware of the change in the law and he then presented it to the Board. The lawsuit was filed as a result of them doing their job. Bishop Green stated some citizens would have loved prior notice on this and he asked what was the deadline. Commissioner Holt stated it needed to be completed by February 8. They will vote on it on January 23.

Commissioner Hinson stated they were about to make a drastic decision that could impact the County. It was a big decision they were going to make. He stated for them to do more research on this. He encouraged Chair Green to study and do research on this before making a vote. Chair Green stated he has.

Chair Green stated the next meeting will be January 23 at 6 p.m. to vote for this.

Adjournment

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN DECLARED THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED AT 5:20 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**RONTERIOUS GREEN, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JANUARY 16, 2024 AT 6:00 P.M.,
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Ronterious "Ron" Green, Chair, District 5
Alonzetta Simpkins, Vice Chair, District 2
Eric Hinson, Vice-Chair, District 1,
Kimblin NeSmith, Chair, District 3
Brenda Holt, District 4
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Opal McKinney-Williams, Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Green called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Mr. Pewitt provided Invocation and Ronneya and Ronnaye Kaphers led into the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

Amendments and Approval of Agenda

Mr. Dixon stated he has one addition to the agenda, Item 12a, Approval of the proposal to provide redistricting services.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED AND
COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO
APPROVE.**

Awards, Presentations and Appearances

1. Recognition of Mary Bush Smith

Mr. Dixon stated he has a recognition of Ms. Smith and Commissioner Simpkins presented the recognition to Ms. Smith.

CONSENT

Mr. Dixon asked to pulled item 7 for discussion and Commissioner Simpkins asked to pull item 6 for discussion. Also, Commissioner Hinson asked to pull items 10 and 12 for discussion.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH THE EXCEPTION OF PULLING FOR DISCUSSION ITEMS 6,7,10, AND 12 AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

2. Ratification Memo

3. BOCC Meeting/Workshop Minutes:

- a. December 19, 2023 Regular BOCC Meeting

4. Approval of Task Order (Design/Survey) – Dogtown Road

5. Approval of Service Contract for Special Magistrate

6. Approval of Lease Agreement with Enterprise Fleet Management

Item pulled for discussion.

7. Approval of the Agreement for Gadsden County Legislative Advocacy Public Relations Services

Item pulled for discussion.

8. Approval of payment to Classic Shirts, Inc. for the Veterans Affairs Department

9. Approval of Policy Number 2024-001 – Public Works Boot Purchasing Policy

10. FY 2024 1st Quarter Expenditure Report of transactions within the County Administrators Threshold

Item pulled for discussion.

11. Public Officials Bond Review

12. Approval for the Finance Office to Process Payment for Invoices Regarding the Greensboro Mega Reunion

Item pulled for discussion.

12a. Proposal to Provide Redistricting Services

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

6. Approval of Lease Agreement with Enterprise Fleet Management

Mr. Dixon stated they have approximately 72 vehicles in their fleet. 51% of them light and medium duty and at least ten years old. They have another set of vehicles that are approaching 5-6 years old. Currently, the Sheriffs' Office and other cities are in a Fleet Management program. He stated it is important that they renew the Fleet. In the package, they will see that not only do they rent a lot of cars for staff to travel, they often do not have the appropriate vehicles that they need to perform in service. There would be no vehicle available other than a van, if they have one. This was an opportunity to renew the Fleet. Staff did research and saw they spend \$32,000 a month fixing vehicles.

Chair Green asked what was the plan with the current vehicles. Mr. Dixon stated eventually, they will go into the Fleet Management System and be renewed.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she saw where the budget would be \$45,000. They were just assuming they were able to get that amount for the current Fleet, but what happens if they do not? On the agreement to sell the customers vehicles, she saw the agreement there but there aren't any numbers in there.

Jean Bortis, Accounting Executive with Fleet Management, appeared before the Board. He stated that they do not like using auctions, they hand sell the vehicles. They only use auctions when vehicles are unsafe. He stated in regard to the \$44,000, the Board is in full control. The goal is to help them recycle their Fleet properly.

Commissioner Simpkins wanted to make sure it was a benefit to them. She asked if his program provides an actual savings. Mr. Bortis stated they did an analysis based on the data they provided and they projected they will save over \$700,000 over the next ten years.

Commissioner NeSmith asked Mr. Dixon if they have an approved vendor. Mr. Dixon stated yes. Commissioner NeSmith mentioned that it shows Enterprise Fleet is proposing to upgrade

31 vehicles. He asked if they are replacing the same type of vehicles. Mr. Dixon stated the facility has asked to go from trucks to vans.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if repairs are covered and Mr. Bortis stated yes, maintenance repairs are covered. Up to 100,000 miles, the vehicles are 100% covered. The only thing they do not include are things like tires and brakes. Commissioner Simpkins stated she wanted to know what they are approving tonight. Are they approving the 31 vehicles?

Mr. Bortis wanted to clarify that the reason why there are no prices in their contracts is because there is no cost to working with Enterprise. When they sign the agreement, they sign for them to engage in a partnership. The only time they pay is when they actually get a vehicle delivered. He stated if they ever need to do 15 vehicles instead of 31 vehicles, they can adjust that.

Chair Green asked if this was all in the budget that they were already operating out of for their vehicles. Mr. Dixon stated the number that is not in there is an estimate number of new vehicles they purchase on a regular basis. They have the line items.

Commissioner NeSmith mentioned the Fleet Management Agreement #3, where it stated that for each vehicle sold, the customer shall pay Enterprise and Administrative fee of the lesser of and he asked what was the amount. Mr. Bortis stated they charge \$400 to dispose of the vehicle.

Commissioner NeSmith asked the Attorney if there are any issues that could cause concern. Attorney McKinney-Williams asked about open lease vs closed lease. Mr. Bortis stated the way it works is that they hold title to the vehicle very similarly to where if they were to go buy a vehicle at a bank and financed it, the bank would still hold the title and they would technically own the vehicle. With open-ended leases, they do not have any wear tail penalties. The moment they pay off the vehicle, they have the option to take title or they could dispose of it.

Attorney McKinney-Williams stated this master equity lease agreement speaks in terms of true lease. She did not see that it allows for what Mr. Bortis said where based on the quote type, you have a different lease type. She asked if there was language in there that reflects that. Mr. Bortis stated he would have to get with his legal team.

Attorney McKinney-Williams mentioned the term being 5 years and stated there was language in there under rent in Sub 3 that talks about there being certain things that occur if you got a term over 48 months and if you have mileage on the vehicle that is greater than 15,000 miles per year, which a lot of these vehicles will not get up to or exceed that. She wanted the Board to be aware that the contract does provide for certain things to occur if they have exceeded certain thresholds.

Mr. Bortis stated they could always provide any kind of vendendums that they need to help them. He would gladly put her in contact with their legal department and get to where they are comfortable. He mentioned that all of the open-ended leases have no mileage restriction.

Chair Green asked about the time frame for this and Mr. Dixon stated they could bring this back to them to make sure the Attorney is comfortable.

Chair Green asked for a motion for this Item to be tabled until the next meeting.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR THIS ITEM TO BE TABLED AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS MOTION.

7. Approval of the Agreement for Gadsden County Legislative Advocacy Public Relations Services

Mr. Dixon stated he asked for item 7 to be pulled due to a scrivener error in the contract, it should say 2025. The advocate has asked for an addition up to \$75,000. \$60,000 is budgeted. He stated if the Board chooses to move this, they will ask that the money come from Reserve for Contingency.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THIS ITEM WITH CORRECTION AND INCREASE MENTIONED BY THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE THE MOTION.

10. FY 2024 1st Quarter Expenditure Report of Transactions within the County Administrators Threshold

Mr. Dixon wanted to verify if they were asking for expenditures that he made within his authority that would need Board approval. The Commissioners stated correct.

Commissioner Hinson asked about utility payments. He stated that he was unaware that they offered assistance with utility bills, payments through the Elderly Affairs. He saw that payments range from \$179 to \$1,700. He stated if this is a service that they do offer, how could they get this information out to the people? He asked if there was an application process and how much aid could a household apply for? He also asked about qualifications and wanted to know when did they start assisting with down payments and closing cost for families. He mentioned that on the line items it showed utility assistance for Talquin and Town of Havana.

Mr. Dixon stated if they are in Elder Affairs, those bills are associated with a grant that they have that seniors qualify for when they request services.

Ms. Daniels stated there are two parts to that program. There is a part that the state provides some funds for payment of utility bills, and there is a portion that is approved in the Elderly Affairs budget to help the senior citizen clients that participate in their programs with bills that are severely behind.

Chair Green stated he believed that there is an application process that is on site at the senior services. It is open to any of their seniors, they do not have to be an active member of the senior citizen facility per se, but they have to be a citizen within Gadsden County.

Commissioner Hinson asked if all funds come from state dollars. Mr. Dixon stated there is no county dollars in the utility program. Commissioner Hinson asked if they could send him the application so he could get it out to the people. Mr. Dixon stated yes.

Commissioner Hinson asked if the \$7,500 for assisting with down payments and closing costs for families was federal and state or was it county. Mr. Dixon stated they do not put very many dollars in the housing program, so it is state and/or federal dollars. He recalled that down payments and closing costs have always been a part of the new housing program.

Commissioner Hinson stated he was talking about that particular \$7,500. He was aware that USDA assisted the county with that particular funding, so he was wondering why is that on this list if USDA spent it.

Commissioner Hinson mentioned line item 24-145 where it showed funding for down payment and closing cost for Hayward Title Group. He was wondering if the funds came from the County or was it state. Ms. Daniels stated that particular item was paid with grant funds. She was not sure at the moment if it was state or federal dollars.

Commissioner Holt stated all monies they get from SHIP are not local. The Housing Department applies for different funds and match up to see if someone does not have the down payment. Everything that goes through that department comes from the state or federal government. Everyone has the opportunity to apply.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned line items 24-082 and 24-139. She stated it shows Bank of America and was curious on those, especially the one coming from the commission budget.

Ms. Daniels stated those Bank of America payments are payments if something was procured, purchased on the P card. The vendor shows up as Bank of America.

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

12. Approval for the Finance Office to Process Payment for Invoices Regarding the Greensboro Mega Reunion

Mr. Dixon stated this for approval for the finance office to process payment for Invoices for the mega reunion in Greensboro. This item was one of those in the Bicentennial. He stated Greensboro came in late and they were not identified specifically and finance has asked to get their approval.

Commissioner Hinson stated he read through the packet and asked that they make sure they get rid of the Social Security Number showing on the packet.

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

Commissioner Hinson stated they already approved Item 12a in the consent agenda but wanted to ask the Board to rescind his vote.

Chair Green stated he would have to make a motion. Commissioner Hinson made a motion to rescind his vote on Item 12a because he has a question regarding it. The motion failed due to a lack of a second.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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Commissioner Simpkins read aloud the above statement.

Rutha Black, 103 Jim Williams Road

Ms. Black appeared before the Board and asked about the thought process for wild hogs. She stated her yard is constantly being destroyed and she is afraid of them.

Chair Green asked if there were any updates because it was serious. Ms. Black stated that when the hogs multiply, they can drop at least 20 pigs at a time.

Commissioner Hinson stated there were some in District 2. Mr. Dixon said by the next meeting, they might have a plan; he believed the extension service has been working with IFAS. He stated the problem was that the wild hogs reproduce really fast. They need to study the animal and develop a program that catches multiple at a time. The hogs are intelligent and will never go back to a site once they find out it is not for them. Mr. Dixon stated that at the last meeting, Mr. Jones made it clear that that ask was probably going to be about \$100,000.

Robbie Jones, IFAS Director, appeared before the Board. He stated they would need to hire at least 2 animal control officers to monitor traps. They also have costs with euthanasia. He said that one trap that is the preferred method is the netted trap.

Commissioner NeSmith stepped out at 7:29 p.m.

Commissioner Holt asked if people eat the pigs. Mr. Jones stated they did not recommend it because they estimate at least 20% of them carry diseases. Commissioner Holt stated one time they had a problem with large animals and asked if there are any other issues. Mr. Jones mentioned coyotes and had issues more in rural areas with those. Commissioner Holt asked about big cats and Mr. Jones stated they have seen some camera footage of panthers. Commissioner Hinson stated he saw a panther in a camera footage shown to him. There are some in Havana.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

13. Public Hearing (Quasi-Judicial) – Re-submission of Conditional Approval for the Havana RV Park Conceptual/Preliminary Site Plan (SP 2022-04)

Mr. Stiell presented the above item. He stated this was a resubmission of a conditional approval that the Board issued last year at the May 2nd meeting. There were two items that the applicant would like for the Board to reconsider. The Board added the following conditions j.) they limit the size of the recreation vehicle to 40 feet to be consistent with the diagram provided by the applicant, and k.) ensure the owners has resolved all title issues associated with the properties, ensure that all boundaries of the parcel have been properly identified, all surveys have been completed and the applicant has obtained fee simple ownership in all parcels prior to the issuance of a development order. Applicant has attempted to resolve all title issues, but the title company hired by the applicant was unable to establish ownership of the shaded area shown on the site plans. The shaded area on the site plans appears to be a portion of a street which was platted as part of the Town of Hinson in 1902 but never constructed (Coleman Street). Due to the uncertainty as to ownership, Applicant is not proposing any development in this area and does not claim ownership of this space.

At the May 2, 2023 meeting, the applicant's agent stated they would be installing both left (northbound) and right (southbound) turn lanes as required by FDOT. The Board stated the approval was conditional based on meeting the requirements of FDOT. Applicant has gone back to FDOT and asked that they reconsider the left (southbound) turn lane. FDOT has said that they will allow the development to be approved without the left (southbound) turn lane. In order for them to move forward, they need a determination by the Board that they do not need to be responsible for resolving the issues of property ownership outside of the property they own, and that a determination is made on whether or not that right turn lane needs to be installed. The Board asked Mr. George whether or not they intended to install the turn lane at the previous meeting and he stated yes and that was why they were bringing this back to them.

Commissioner Holt asked if they could put on the screen the roadway in front of the property. They showed page 40 of 112 on the packet.

Robert George appeared before the Board.

Commissioner Holt asked if this was north of Coastal Lumber and Mr. George stated South. She asked about the log trucks and Mr. George stated from the traffic study, the percentage of trucks on U.S. 27 is less than 10%.

Chair Green asked who did the traffic study. Mr. George stated Drew Roark, a consulting firm. Chair Green stated the 10% seemed low. He also wanted to make sure they understood correctly that DOT did not support putting the turning lane. Mr. George stated the Florida Department of Transportation came back without seeing the study, and made a comment that they need a turning lane. It was prior to the study being done.

Commissioner Simpkins stated trucks are in Boies constantly. 10% is low coming from that area. She asked if the property was before the old Hobbit. Mr. George stated yes if you are heading north.

Commissioner Simpkins asked about residences. Mr. Stiell stated they did not do citizens bill of rights. Mail was sent to all residents. The Board has previously approved this and the only exception is what was before them now.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE ITEM WITH A TURNING LANE AND WITHOUT THE TITLE AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS MOTION.

GENERAL BUSINESS

14. **Appointment of Commissioner and Alternate to the Canvassing Board**
Mr. Dixon presented the above item.

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

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THE ALTERNATE MEMBER AND
COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO
APPROVE THIS MOTION.**

15. Board Direction on Gadsden County Legal Services

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. This item was seeking direction on Gadsden County Legal Services.

Commissioner Hinson thought they should give it one year instead of 2 years for this.
Commissioner Simpkins agreed.

Commissioner NeSmith stated they need more attention from legal services in house. They have issues with Ordinances that have not been reviewed. Chair Green stated he thought they were going to schedule a more in detailed workshop on legal services. He stated that even if they moved to put an RFP out, they need to get some directions on when they want to do it and if they wanted to have a workshop before putting it out. Chair Green stated it could be the same firm they currently have; he was not against the firm. He just wanted to have the opportunity for them to see what else was out there.

Commissioner Holt stated they have discussed this for a few months now. They could decide how an RFP can be written. They need to look at performance. She stated they need to put this out in a timely manner, that way everyone could have the opportunity to look at what they want in the RFP.

Commissioner Simpkins needed clarification on things not done and whose end was this on. She believed that they should hold off on doing an RFP and extend this for a period of time.

Commissioner NeSmith stated he wanted to be clear that the current law firm had not presented any deficiencies. The contract has come of point of renewal. Commissioner Simpkins stated the contract itself needed to be looked at.

Commissioner Holt stated it would require to put out an RFP. If there was a problem, she brought it up with Mr. Pittman.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO PUT OUT AN RFP FOR THIS ITEM AND
COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE TO
APPROVE THIS MOTION. COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS AND COMMISSIONER HINSON
OPPOSED.**

**16. Discussion of Previously approved Ordinance No.: 2023-07 Amending Chapter 2 of the Code
of Laws of Gadsden County, Florida, by Amending Sections 2-141 and 2-142 Relating to
Expenditures for Miscellaneous Purposes**

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. Commissioner Simpkins wanted this item brought back before the Board.

Commissioner Simpkins requested the amount to be amended. If there are purchases needed to be made, anything over \$1,500 needs to come before them for miscellaneous purchases. The motion failed due to no second.

CLERK OF COURT

17. Updates

No updates.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

18. Updates

Mr. Dixon stated they will have an updated list of items on parks and down the list sent to the Commissioners tomorrow.

Mr. Dixon stated the Legislature is off and running; they were already passing bills.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

19. Updates

No updates.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

20. Commissioner Eric Hinson, Vice-Chair, District 1

Commissioner Hinson mentioned a post: "The time is always right to do what is right". He stated he had the opportunity to go to a couple of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebrations. One was in Quincy dealing with the National Hookup of Black Women. He stated it was an awesome event. He went to a celebration in Havana as well.

Commissioner Hinson reminded everyone to turn on the faucets tonight. He also mentioned Congressman Lawson and his wife and stated he was praying for them.

Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, Chair, District 3

Commissioner NeSmith wished Commissioner Simpkins a happy belated birthday. He mentioned the CRTPA retreat was phenomenal. He stated they have some great projects coming from the CRTPA in regards to the School District and safety of their students.

Commissioner NeSmith thanked the City of Gretna for cleaning up.

Commissioner NeSmith mentioned that the next two days are going to be very cold and asked Chair Green if there were any facilities to accommodate the homeless. Chair Green stated hours the facilities will be open. He solicited that some of the organizations could volunteer to provide food.

Commissioner NeSmith mentioned to the County Administrator about the sign on the Courthouse lawn and asked to adjust it. He also stated that he wanted citizens of this County to stay warm.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt asked for an update on Stevens School and Mr. Dixon stated they were beginning the discussion on available space.

Mr. Stiell stated the Environmental has been completed. Florida Commerce came back with some comments last week about addressing things before they make the approval.

Commissioner Holt explained to Mr. Dixon that when she started working there, she was employed with the school system as well as Commissioner Hinson. They were both dual employed. She stated that Mr. Lawson contacted her and said he notified the State of Florida Retirement about her retirement. There was some money paid out for the County because of that dual employment. \$160,000 was paid out by the County and asked who approved that payout. She asked if it was the Clerk's Office. She asked if it came before them and Mr. Dixon stated no. She asked Mr. Dixon if he could get more information on that and bring it before the Board.

Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2

Commissioner Simpkins last week when they had the bad weather, some of their residents are not city citizens, but they receive the city utilities and she received calls and calls. She needed to know how she could be a better assistance to her citizens during this time. She could not really give them answers. Mr. Dixon stated the city does not have meters that are read individually by their system. Chair Green stated the City Manager is accessible to all of them. He could provide information as it relates to those type of situations.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned having a workshop with the Boys & Girls Club. She also mentioned Jamieson Road and stated it needed some attention.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned Lake Talquin and stated they needed to look at getting channels marked so they could bring in some of those big tournaments.

Commissioner Simpkins thanked everyone for the New Years Brunch. She mentioned Attapulgis Highway and asked about the status. Mr. Young appeared before the Board and stated they started working on it yesterday.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned lights and Mr. Dixon stated they were developing an RFP.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5

Chair Green stated at Lake Talquin there is a ramp that the County has ownership on. He walked on the wood and realized it needed to be replaced.

Chair Green mentioned High Bridge Road and asked about the status. Mr. Young appeared before the Board and stated they were looking at a 4 way stop.

CHAIR GREEN MADE A MOTION FOR A RECOGNITION OF BISHOP WILLIE GREEN AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS MOTION.

Commissioner Hinson mentioned a lot of accidents off of Midway. They needed to figure out what was going on and how they could assist the City of Midway. Chair Green stated not in just that area, but as well as 267. There have been multiple accidents within the past couple of weeks. They needed to have a conversation with dispatch. Mr. Dixon stated the way dispatch is set up is becoming problematic. He will be bringing this back again.

Commissioner Hinson provided a green light moment:

“The time is always right to do what is right” – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

21. Memo: Expenditures from Line Item 0001-54805 for October 1, 2023 - December 13, 2023

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN DECLARED THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED AT 9:05 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**RONTERIOUS GREEN, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A MEETING OF THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING ADVISORY
COMMITTEE BOARD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA
ON JANUARY 18, 2024 AT 5:00 PM, THE FOLLOWING
PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Brenda Holt
Charles Hayes
Robin Watkins
Kerwyn Jones-Wilson
Stacey Hannigan
Richard Lockwood
Tracey Stallworth
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk

WELCOME

Ms. Burns welcomed everyone and then led into the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.
Commissioner Stallworth led into Invocation.

OPEN ADVISORY MEETING

Ms. Burns stated next on the agenda was to elect a Chairman and Vice-chairman for this Board.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER STALLWORTH AND
CHARLES HAYES MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS
MOTION.**

**ROBIN WATKINS MADE A MOTION TO NOMINATE KERWYN JONES-WILSON AS VICE-CHAIR AND
COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE
THIS MOTION.**

INTRODUCTIONS

Everyone in the Board introduced themselves.

**REVIEW COMPREHENSIVE PLAN – HOUSING ELEMENTS, HOUSING INCENTIVES, GRANT FUNDING
OPPORTUNITIES – CDBG**

Chair Stallworth stated next on the agenda was to review the comprehensive plan.

Chair Stallworth asked for a small overview. Ms. Burns stated that the following goals, objectives, and policies constitute the Housing Element providing for decent, safe, and sanitary housing at affordable costs and in sufficient quantities to meet the needs of the existing and future population projected for the County. The Data and Analysis for the Housing Element are not part of the adopted comprehensive plan but serve as the basis for formulation of these goals, objectives, and policies. She mentioned that all of the information is also in the County's website.

Chair Stallworth asked if they have a marketing strategy to get this information out so that people will be aware of this. Ms. Burns stated yes, all of their information is on the website.

Ms. Burns asked if there were any questions regarding the summary of the incentives. She mentioned that on the right side of the chart were recommendations from the previous meeting and asked if there were any new recommendations.

Commissioner Holt stated any of those funds would be accessible to anyone in the County. Ms. Burns stated yes. Commissioner Holt mentioned about getting more marketing on some of the items that were in the packet.

Chair Stallworth asked when will this be presented to the County Commissioners. Ms. Burns stated the second meeting of February. But, if they needed more time, they could move it to the first meeting in March.

ROBIN WATKINS MADE A MOTION FOR A WORKSHOP AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Ms. Jones-Wilson mentioned that some of the ideas she had for housing was doing a parade of homes. She stated they have homes in Gadsden County that are near completion. She stated that if citizens go through the SHIP program, they may give them an extra incentive of some sort. Another idea she had was to do a tiny home village. They are also wanting to have their first-time home owners learn more about ownership. One of their last ideas was to do an annual marketing at the Courthouse where they can bring in builders and maybe bring in tiny homes to parade them.

Chair Stallworth stated he liked that she mentioned homeowner education. He would love to see some financial literacy education. He stated often time, new homeowners do not know how to manage their funds. Ms. Burns stated they do offer first time homeowner education classes. They have to complete 8-10 hours before they receive their certification.

Commissioner Holt mentioned the Summer Youth Program and stated they will push forward for them to go learn about this.

Chair Stallworth stated Ms. Burns mentioned about having someone who works in the banking institution being on the Board and he stated that it read about having someone in real estate. He asked if there was someone here in that profession. Ms. Jones-Wilson stated she was in that profession.

Ms. Burns stated they will offer financial literacy and land ownership. Commissioner Holt stated she has requested more people in that department, they need minority preference and local preference.

Ms. Burns mentioned grant funding opportunities. Gadsden County has been awarded \$750,000. They were selecting applicants now for that program.

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

Ms. Burns stated they need to schedule a workshop and the next meeting.

Chair Stallworth stated the workshop will be scheduled February 8 at 5 p.m. and the next meeting will be on March 7 at 4 p.m. All Board members agreed on the dates.

Ms. Burns mentioned the single-family home repair loans and grants, which is a program by USDA. She stated it was increased to \$40,000 and they were trying to get the word out to apply because the money is available. Anyone can apply. It is a grant, not a loan. Applications available in office and can mail them.

ADJOURNMENT

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR STALLWORTH
DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:49 P.M.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**TRACEY STALLWORTH, Chair
Affordable Housing Advisory Committee**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FL ON JANUARY 23, 2024 AT 6:00 P.M., THE
FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

Present: Ronterious “Ron” Green, Chair, District 5
Alonzetta Simpkins, Vice Chair, District 2
Eric Hinson, Vice-Chair, District 1
Kimblin NeSmith, Chair, District 3
Brenda Holt, District 4
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Green called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm, welcomed everyone, Commissioner Simpkins gave the Invocation and then Chair Green led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

Amendments and Approval of Agenda

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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.org 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 via Zoom using the credentials on the County’s website. The Board’s meetings are also broadcast live on the Board’s Facebook page.

Chair Green read aloud the above statement.

Janet Watson, 2793 Sycamore Road, Quincy, FL

Ms. Watson appeared before the Board and requested to give her 3 minutes to Mike Watson.

Mike Watson, 2793 Sycamore Road, Quincy, FL

Mr. Watson appeared before the Board. He said Members of the House of Representatives of the United States gets 5 minutes and asked they consider increasing the time limit to 5 minutes. He said at the last meeting the idea was put out he was thinking Sycamore Road was the worst road in the County and that was not what was said. He said it was one of the worst but Ben

Bostick was the worst he has seen. He said he has worked diligently for the past year and a half or so trying to find out who picked what roads to be paved. He thought it was the director of Public Works but at the last meeting, the Administrator said DOT was the one that decided.

Gekettia Harris, 122 N. Cleveland Street, Quincy, FL

Ms. Harris appeared before the Board and gave her 3 minutes to Chrissy Shorter-Arnold.

Chrissy Shorter-Arnold, 30 Stillwater Lane, Havana, FL

Ms. Shorter-Arnold appeared before the Board and stated she has tried to pull up Commissioner Hinson's Facebook page to find she has been blocked. She stated with him being a public official, it is not ethical to block or censor someone. She further stated she was having her lawyer file a lawsuit the following day and intended to find out when she was blocked, etc.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Public Hearing-Approval of Ordinance 2024-01

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item, stated it was a Public Hearing and was before the Board for their approval of Proposed Ordinance 2024-01 repealing all prior County Commission district boundaries and establishing new boundaries of the five County Commission Districts. Have had number of workshops.

Mr. Spitzer appeared before the Board and stated they have had a couple of opportunities to see the maps. He said the County had to redistrict the 46-47 point spread between the smallest and largest deviations from the average. He felt both maps that were previously presented to the Board were legally sufficient and was a matter of Board decision as the policy making body as to which map chosen. He felt the ACLU Map 1a.2 had the better spread than the other map.

Chair Green announced this was a public hearing and asked if there were any comments from the public and there was none.

He then asked if the Commissioners had any comments.

Commissioner Hinson said he noticed they have to take away 2000+/- constituents from his district and he did not want to lose any. He commented it has been challenging to accept that. It was strange to him the Hinson community would be carved out. While he understood something has to be done, it was still hard to give up any of his constituents.

Chair Green said it was a tough decision across the board for all of them to make. He wanted to look at it as a positive that the County was growing.

Commissioner Holt said as stated before, she liked the “D” map but did not like losing any of her district either.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE MAP “D” FOR REDISTRICTING AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND WITH A COMMENT.

He said as stated, growth was a good thing. If they continue to grow and provide resources for citizens, they will attract more citizens in the county and continue to grow. There will be another census in 6 years and if keep moving in the direction they want to move in in providing the citizens the greatest services and resources that they could, there will be more growth.

CHAIR GREEN CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE OPTION 1. COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.

Chair Green asked the Deputy Clerk enter a copy of the boundary description into the minutes of the meeting and be a part of the record.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:26 PM.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**RONTERIOUS GREEN, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

ORDINANCE 2024-01

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA, REPEALING ALL PRIOR COUNTY COMMISSION DISTRICT BOUNDARIES AND ESTABLISHING NEW BOUNDARIES OF THE FIVE COUNTY COMMISSION DISTRICTS; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION; PROVIDING FOR MINUTES; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF LAWS IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE OF ORDINANCES; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Article VIII Section 1(e), of the Florida Constitution requires that after each decennial census, the Board of County Commissioners shall apportion the existing districts accordingly; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 census has been completed and the population information has been tabulated; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners, in accordance with the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Florida, applicable State Law, the Federal Voting Rights Act, seeks to revise its five commission districts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA, that:

SECTION 1. – Commission District Boundaries

The boundaries of the five County Commission districts are hereby changed to conform to the legal descriptions attached hereto and incorporated as though fully set forth herein as Exhibit “A”.

SECTION 2. – Publication

Pursuant to §124.02, Florida Statutes, a certified copy of this Ordinance, including an accurate description of the boundaries of the districts, shall be published once each week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper published in Gadsden County, and proof of such publication shall be entered on the minutes of the Board.

SECTION 3. – Minutes

Pursuant to Florida Statutes §124.03, Florida Statutes, the Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners shall forthwith furnish to the Department of State a certified copy of the Minutes of the Board of County Commissioners meeting reflecting the description of the boundaries of the districts as set forth in this Ordinance.

SECTION 4. – Repeal the Laws in Conflict

All county laws and ordinances in conflict with any of the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION 5. – Severability

If any section, paragraph, sentence, clause, phrase or word of this Ordinance is for any reason held by a Court to be unconstitutional, inoperative, invalid or void, such holding shall not affect the remainder of this Ordinance.

SECTION 6. – Inclusion in the Code of Laws and Ordinances

The provisions of this Ordinance shall become and made part of the Code of Laws and Ordinances of Gadsden County Florida. The sections of this Ordinance may renumbered or relettered to accomplish to accomplish such, and the word “ordinance” may be changed to “section”, “article”, or any other appropriate word.

SECTION 7. – Effective Date

The provisions of this Ordinance shall become effective upon filing with the Department of State.

SECTION 8. – Scrivener’s Errors

Scrivener’s errors may be corrected by the County Attorney as needed without further action of the Board of County Commissioners.

DULY READ, PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of
Gadsden County, Florida after proper notice and public hearing, this 23rd day of January 2024.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA



ATTEST:

RONTERIOUS GREEN, Chairman

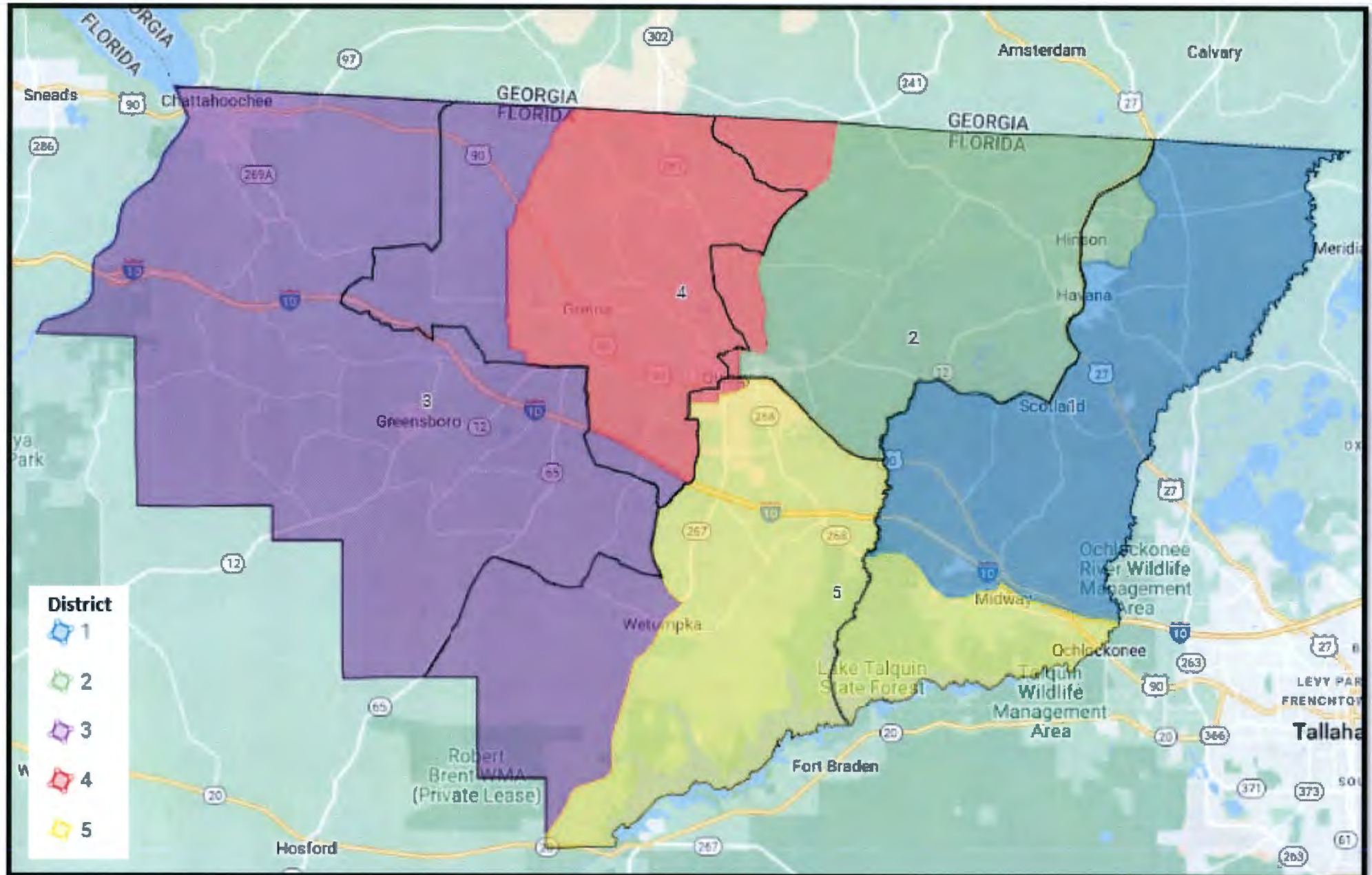
DEPUTY CLERK
NICHOLAS THOMAS,
Clerk of the Circuit Court

APPROVED AS TO FORM FOR THE
RELIANCE OF GADSDEN COUNTY,
FLORIDA ONLY

CLAYTON FORD KNOWLES, ESQ.
County Attorney

Map “D”

Submitted by the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida (ACLU)



**Gadsden County Redistricting
ACLU Plan D**

Map "D"

ACLU Plan D												
DISTRICT	2020 Population IDEAL	2020 Population ACTUAL	Population Deviation	Percent Deviation	Population White	Percent White	Population Black	Percent Black	Population Other	Percent Other	Population Hispanic	Percent Hispanic
District 1	8,587.60	8,864	276	3.22%	3,475	39.2%	4,849	54.7%	540	6.1%	481	5.4%
<i>Voting Age Population</i>		7,015			3,018	43.0%	3,631	51.8%	366	5.2%	301	4.3%
District 2	8,587.60	8,447	(141)	-1.64%	4,091	48.4%	3,521	41.7%	835	9.9%	762	9.0%
<i>Voting Age Population</i>		6,949			3,593	51.7%	2,762	39.7%	594	8.5%	501	7.2%
District 3	8,587.60	8,408	(180)	-2.09%	3,788	45.1%	3,429	40.8%	1,191	14.2%	1,277	15.2%
<i>Voting Age Population</i>		6,832			3,315	48.5%	2,689	39.4%	828	12.1%	868	12.7%
District 4	8,587.60	8,437	(151)	-1.75%	1,366	16.2%	5,739	68.0%	1,332	15.8%	1,425	16.9%
<i>Voting Age Population</i>		6,390			1,160	18.2%	4,343	68.0%	887	13.9%	951	14.9%
District 5	8,587.60	8,782	194	2.26%	1,833	20.9%	5,941	67.6%	1,008	11.5%	1,083	12.3%
<i>Voting Age Population</i>		6,543			1,562	23.9%	4,309	65.9%	672	10.3%	677	10.3%
Totals	42,938	42,938			14,553		23,479		4,906		5,028	
<i>Voting Age Population</i>		33,729			12,648		17,734		3,347		3,298	

ACLU Plan D

The map described with the following metes and bounds can be viewed on Google Maps at this link.

https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=14XdeJWnvo6RCuvrguKOlaVse0_nalfw&usp=sharing

District 1. That part of Gadsden County lying within the following boundary:

Begin at the intersection of the eastern Gadsden County boundary and I-10,
Thence west along I-10 to Dover Road,
Thence south along Dover road to Martin Luther King Boulevard,
Thence west along Martin Luther King Boulevard/High Bridge Road to the Little River,
Thence north along Little River to SR 12 (Havana Highway),
Thence east along SR 12 (Havana Highway) to Shady Rest Road,
Thence east along Shady Rest Road to Scotland Road,
Thence north along Scotland Road to US 27,
Thence north along US 27 to the southern boundary of Subprecinct 20B, which is also Carver Avenue, the Havana town limit, Cecil Butler Lake, and Lewis Creek,
Thence east along the southern boundary of Subprecinct 20B, which is also Carver Avenue, the Havana city limit, Cecil Butler Lake, and Lewis Creek, to Fairbanks Ferry Road,
Thence north along Fairbanks Ferry Road to McNair Road,
Thence north along McNair Road to US 27,
Thence north along US 27 to the Gadsden County boundary,
Thence east and south along the Gadsden County boundary to the place of beginning.

District 2. That part of Gadsden County lying within the following boundary:

Begin at the intersection of the northern Gadsden County boundary and Attapulugus Highway,
Thence south along Attapulugus Highway to Quincy Creek, which is also the Quincy city limit,
Thence west along Quincy Creek, which is also the Quincy city limit, to SR 267 (North Adams Street),
Thence south along SR 267 (North Adams Street) to Burmah Drive,
Thence west along Burmah Drive to North Bellamy Drive,
Thence west and south along North Bellamy Drive to South Bellamy Drive,
Thence south along South Bellamy Drive to North 9th Street,
Thence south along North 9th Street to West Washington Street,
Thence west along West Washington Street to South 10th Street,
Thence south along South 10th Street to US 90,
Thence east along US 90 to Little River,
Thence north along Little River to SR 12 (Havana Highway),
Thence east along SR 12 (Havana Highway) to Shady Rest Road,
Thence east along Shady Rest Road to Scotland Road,
Thence north along Scotland Road to US 27,
Thence north along US 27 to the southern boundary of Subprecinct 20B, which is also Carver Avenue, the Havana town limit, Cecil Butler Lake, and Lewis Creek,

Thence east along the southern boundary of Subprecinct 20B, which is also Carver Avenue, the Havana City limit, Cecil Butler Lake, and Lewis Creek, to Fairbanks Ferry Road,
Thence north along Fairbanks Ferry Road to McNair Road,
Thence north along McNair Road to US 27,
Thence north along US 27 to the Gadsden County boundary,
Thence west along the Gadsden County boundary to the place of beginning.

District 3. That part of Gadsden County lying within the following boundary:

Begin at the intersection of the northern Gadsden County boundary and Mount Pleasant Road,

Thence south along Mount Pleasant Road to Hardaway Highway,
Thence west along Hardaway Highway to the Gretna city limit,
Thence south and west along the Gretna city limit to Pittman Branch,
Thence south along Pittman Branch to the Gretna city limit,
Thence south along the Gretna city limit to Hanna Mill Pond Road,
Thence east along Hanna Mill Pond Road to Bassett Road,
Thence south along Bassett Road to Flat Creek Road,
Thence east along Flat Creek Road to Greensboro SR 12 (Greensboro Highway),
Thence east along SR 12 (Greensboro Highway) to Rocky Comfort Creek,
Thence south along Rocky Comfort Creek to I-10,
Thence east along I-10 to Cox Creek,
Thence south along Cox Creek to SR 267 (Pat Thomas Parkway),
Thence south along SR 267 (Pat Thomas Parkway) to the Gadsden County boundary,
Thence northwest, north, and east along the Gadsden County boundary to the place of beginning.

District 4. That part of Gadsden County lying within the following boundary:

Begin at the intersection of the northern Gadsden County boundary and Mount Pleasant Road,

Thence south along Mount Pleasant Road to Hardaway Highway,
Thence west along Hardaway Highway to the Gretna city limit,
Thence south and west along the Gretna city limit to Pittman Branch,
Thence south along Pittman Branch to the Gretna city limit,
Thence south along the Gretna city limit to Hanna Mill Pond Road,
Thence east along Hanna Mill Pond Road to Bassett Road,
Thence south along Bassett Road to Flat Creek Road,
Thence east along Flat Creek Road to Greensboro SR 12 (Greensboro Highway),
Thence east along SR 12 (Greensboro Highway) to Rocky Comfort Creek,
Thence south along Rocky Comfort Creek to I-10,
Thence east along I-10 to Cox Creek,
Thence north along Cox Creek to the Quincy city limit,
Thence west and north along the Quincy city limit, which is also Krausland Road and Barack Obama Boulevard, to Martin Luther King Boulevard,
Thence east along Martin Luther King Boulevard to South Cleveland Street,
Thence north along South Cleveland Street to Elm Street,
Thence east along Elm Street to SR 267 (Pat Thomas Parkway),

Thence north along SR 267 (Pat Thomas Parkway) to Live Oak Street,
Thence east along Live Oak Street to Cooper Street,
Thence south along Cooper Street to 4th Street,
Thence east along 4th Street to Station Street,
Thence northeast and east along Station Street to South Key Street,
Thence north along South Key Street to West Crawford Street,
Thence west along West Crawford Street to South Key Street,
Thence north along South Key Street to US 90,
Thence west along US 90 to North 10th Street,
Thence north along North 10th Street to West Washington Street,
Thence east along West Washington Street to North 9th Street,
Thence north along North 9th Street to South Bellamy Drive,
Thence north along South Bellamy Drive to North Bellamy Drive,
Thence north and east along North Bellamy Drive to Burmah Drive,
Thence east along Burmah Drive to SR 267 (North Adams Street),
Thence north along SR 267 (North Adams Street) to Quincy Creek, which is also the Quincy city limit,
Thence east along Quincy Creek, which is also the Quincy city limit, to Attapulcus Highway,
Thence north along Attapulcus Highway to the Gadsden County boundary,
Thence west along the Gadsden County boundary to the place of beginning.

District 5. That part of Gadsden County lying within the following boundary:

Begin at the intersection of the eastern Gadsden County boundary and I-10,
Thence west along I-10 to Dover Road,
Thence south along Dover road to Martin Luther King Boulevard,
Thence west along Martin Luther King Boulevard/High Bridge Road to the Little River,
Thence north along Little River to US 90,
Thence west along US 90 to South Key Street,
Thence south along South Key Street to West Crawford Street,
Thence east along West Crawford Street to South Key Street,
Thence south along South Key Street to Station Street,
Thence west and southwest along Station Street to 4th Street,
Thence west along 4th Street to Cooper Street,
Thence north along Cooper Street to Live Oak Street,
Thence west along Live Oak Street to SR 267 (Pat Thomas Parkway),
Thence south along SR 267 (Pat Thomas Parkway) to Elm Street,
Thence west along Elm Street to South Cleveland Street,
Thence south along South Cleveland Street to Martin Luther King Boulevard,
Thence west along Martin Luther King Boulevard to the Quincy city limit,
Thence south and east along the Quincy city limit, which is also Krausland Road and Barack Obama Boulevard, to Cox Creek,
Thence south along Cox Creek to SR 267 (Pat Thomas Parkway),
Thence south along SR 267 (Pat Thomas Parkway) to the Gadsden County boundary,
Thence south, east, and northeast along the Gadsden County boundary to the place of beginning.

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON FEBRUARY 6, 2024 AT 6:00 P.M.,
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Ronterious "Ron" Green, Chair, District 5
Alonzetta Simpkins, Vice-Chair, District 2
Eric Hinson, District 1,
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
Brenda Holt, District 4
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Vice-Chair Simpkins called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. Invocation was provided by the Reverend. Ms. Jordan led into the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S Flag.

Commissioner Hinson appeared at 6:01 p.m.

Commissioner Holt appeared at 6:02 p.m.

Amendments and Approval of Agenda

Mr. Dixon stated he would like to remove item 1 & 2 due to the bishop not being available.

He also mentioned to remove item 7 because it was incomplete and would like to pull item 13 except for the City of Quincy contract.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AMENDED AGENDA AND
COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO
APPROVE.**

Awards, Presentations and Appearances

~~1. Recognition of Bishop Willie Lamb, Sr.~~
~~(Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners)~~

~~2. Recognition of Presiding Elder Tan Moss~~
~~(Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners)~~

CONSENT

Commissioner NeSmith asked to pull Item 12 and Commissioner Hinson asked for Item 13 to be pulled for discussion.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ITEM 12 AND ITEM 13 BEING PULLED FOR DISCUSSION AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

3. **Ratification Memo**
4. **BOCC Meeting/Workshop Minutes:**
 - a. January 8, 2024, Redistricting Workshop #1
 - b. January 10, 2024, Emergency Meeting (FINN)
 - c. January 16, 2024, Redistricting Workshop #2
 - d. January 16, 2024, Regular BOCC Meeting
5. **Approval to Repair and Update the Fire Sprinkler System at the W. A. Woodham Building**
6. **Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Liens and Rehabilitation Contracts - State Housing Initiative Partnership Program (SHIP) and Gadsden County Emergency Repair Program (ER)**
- ~~7. **Approval of Task Work Order (Design -Survey) - Barineau Road Over Willachoochee Creek Bridge Rehabilitation**~~
Item pulled.
8. **Approval of Task Work Order (Design -Survey) - Fairbanks Ferry (2nd Phase)**
9. **Approval for the Finance Office to Process Payment for Holiday Outdoor Décor**
10. **Approval of Agreement with The Integrity Group to Provide Professional Emergency Management Contractual Services on a Continuing Services Basis**
11. **Approval to Award RFP No. 24-01 Graphic Design Services**
- ~~12. **Approval to upgrade an aging fleet through a Lease Program with Enterprise Fleet Management**~~
Item pulled for discussion.
- ~~13. **Approval of Fire Department's Interlocal Fire and Rescue Service Agreements**~~
Item pulled for discussion.

Items Pulled for Discussion

12. Approval to upgrade an aging fleet through a Lease Program with Enterprise Fleet Management

Commissioner NeSmith asked if there were any concerns that they still had regarding this item. Mr. Dixon stated no. Commissioner NeSmith asked the County Attorney if he had the chance to read the lease agreement. Mr. Knowles stated yes, they read it and had a meeting with the vendor and they made some changes to the document for venue and a couple of other things were clarified.

Chair Green appeared at 6:08 p.m.

Commissioner Simpkins asked about the vehicles they were selling and if they were allowed to sell vehicles that may have been purchased via a grant. The County Attorney stated yes, if they own them and have the title.

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

13. Approval of Fire Department's Interlocal Fire and Rescue Service Agreements

Mr. Dixon stated they have had discussions about nonprofits and insurance. He mentioned Havana was concerned about losing money. One of the fixes he was going to propose to them is to take everyone up to \$49-50k. He wanted to ensure that cities were treated the same all across the Board. He stated Havana had some strictly Havana situations that they wanted to talk about and so the Chiefs will take the opportunity to see what they could work out. Mr. Dixon stated he will bring this back to them in 2 weeks.

Commissioner Hinson stated he spoke with the Havana Town Manager. He spoke with the County Administrator and asked to pull this item and have a workshop with the Town of Havana.

Commissioner Simpkins wanted to make sure they meet with each of the volunteer fire departments to ensure each of their concerns are met.

Commissioner Hinson stated he would like to schedule a workshop with the Town of Havana.

Commissioner Holt stated they need to work out their concerns. She stated they could continue contracting with the cities, they could do independent contracting with people that do fire, or they could start their own county fire service.

Chair Green stated everyone would need to come to the table for a workshop. He asked about the timeframe for this and the County Attorney stated with the exception of Havana, 180 days since November 1. He mentioned that the Town of Havana had sent a separate extension agreement that they would like signed.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she would like for the County Administrator to meet with each fire department before the workshop.

Commissioner Hinson stated they have an additional 3 months and they should take that time to meet with each fire department. Mr. Dixon stated they would certainly do as the Board wished and have those meetings and schedule the workshops.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO SCHEDULE A WORKSHOP WITH ALL OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND THAT THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR PROVIDE ALL CONCERNS BEFORE THEIR WORKSHOP. COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND WITH DISCUSSION.

Commissioner Hinson stated they needed to have a meeting separate with the Board and let the County Administrator give them the plan. That way they would know exactly what some of the changes were.

Chair Green suggested for each commissioner to meet with the County Administrator. That way when they do go to the meeting, everyone would have had the opportunity to know what they would be discussing and what changes they would like to make.

Commissioner NeSmith asked how many contracts they have with the fire departments. The County Attorney stated 12. Chair NeSmith asked how long have they been contracting with the 12 departments. Commissioner Holt stated except for the nonprofits, they had those contracts already.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO HAVE A WORKSHOP PRIOR TO HAVING A WORKSHOP WITH THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Simpkins made a motion to approve the Havana contract. Mr. Knowles stated to Commissioner Holt that the contract was the same. Commissioner Holt stated they could not approve something that the Attorney said was the same if they did not have the contract in front of them. Chair Green asked Commissioner Simpkins if they could take care of this in the next meeting. Commissioner Simpkins stated that was fine but this was really on the Commissioners because it was sent to them. They were the ones who dropped the ball.

Mr. Dixon stated the City of Quincy would like for them to approve their contract.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CITY OF QUINCY FIRE CONTRACT AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

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.

Commissioner NeSmith read the above statement aloud.

Brian Small, 144 Williams St Havana, FL

Mr. Small wanted to go over the redistricting that was voted on and its effects. He would like the County to reconsider the redistricting as it affects the local campaign. He would like to get it back in accordance with the State Statute.

Sherrie Taylor 217 W Clark St Quincy, FL

Ms. Taylor appeared and stated she was asked by the Chair to go before them and give an overview of what they used the funding for from the county. She thanked them for the \$45,000 provided for Gadsden Wellness. She handed out invoices.

Chair Green stated this was one of those to put into perspective. He thanked her for sharing this with them. Commissioner Hinson thanked her for sharing the invoice.

Sonja Wilson Lewis & Carolyn Ford, 420 Shiloh Rd

Ms. Wilson-Lewis stated they were there tonight on behalf of the Future Builders' Club of America. They requested financial assistance of \$7500 for a Vegas trip.

Chair Green stated they have done an outstanding job. He stated there was a vote taken as it related to nonprofits however, he would like to make an exception to give them money.

Commissioner Hinson thanked them for moving forward. He thanked the leaders for exposing the kids.

Chair Green stated they will bring this up later in the meeting regarding the \$7500 request.

Public Hearings

14. Public Hearing: Approval of Resolution 2024-002 Budget Amendment for FY 2023-2024

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. Ms. Daniels stated this item seeks approval of Res. 2024-002 Budget Amendment for FY 2023-2024.

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

General Business

Clerk of Court

Updates

County Administrator

Mr. Dixon mentioned that they had Rural County Day. He stated they received a grant award of 6 million dollars. 4 million will go to the area of Chattahoochee for a Tele-Health Center and 2 million will go to Havana.

County Attorney

Updates

Discussion Items by Commissioners

Commissioner Eric F. Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson made a motion to recognize Tyrone Davis. Chair Green stated they requested a proclamation for him and to check on thoughts on that and maybe take a different approach.

Commissioner Hinson asked what was the budget now for the Future Builders of America. Ms. Lewis stated \$23,000 and they need to raise about \$8,500.

Chair Green asked what they were building. A member of the club stated they were making a blueprint of a mansion in Utah.

Commissioner NeSmith returned at 7:13 pm.

Commissioner Kimblin E. Nesmith, J.D., District 3

Commissioner NeSmith mentioned trash issues to the County Administrator and stated there was relocating of that issue.

Commissioner Hinson asked the County Administrator about the Summer Youth Program. Mr. Dixon stated they were developing a new plan to incorporate what they have requested.

Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt asked about the workshop for non-profits before the Future Builders of America leave for the Las Vegas Trip on February 24. She stated they already voted to not give any more money until they have a workshop.

Commissioner Holt asked how much has the School Board donated to the Future Builders of America. Ms. Lewis stated nothing; last year when they did ask the School Board for funding, it was met with a lot of backlashes. They did eventually give money to the group so they could travel. She stated their main sponsor Kerwyn Jones-Wilson has been asking for funding for that trip. The majority of the funding received has come from fundraisers and Go Fund Me's.

Commissioner Hinson stated he will give \$1,000 to the Future Builders of America.

Commissioner NeSmith asked Ms. Lewis when the process started on going to Las Vegas. Ms. Lewis stated this process has been in the works since they competed back in October/November. They had built a life size dog house.

Commissioner Holt brought up telemarketers. She stated she received calls from elderly people and she wanted to inform everyone to not say yes when a telemarketer asks if it is you. They are trying to scam.

Vice-Chair Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2

Commissioner Simpkins stated she would like to make a motion to approve the Havana Fire contract and Commissioner Hinson had made the second.

Commissioner Holt asked the Attorney if there was anything different than the contract they gave. Mr. Knowles stated it was substantially the same, just worded in a different way. Commissioner Holt stated she could not vote for it because it was not in front of her.

Commissioner Simpkins stated they were in February and they do not have a contract with the Town of Havana and they are providing services in unincorporated areas. It was not their fault because they sent that information over. Commissioner Holt stated they needed to compare the 2 documents and then vote on it.

Commissioner Simpkins asked Mr. Dixon to provide the Commissioners with what the difference is between the 2 documents. She rescinded her motion and Commissioner Hinson rescinded his second. Commissioner Simpkins mentioned lighting and cameras. Mr. Dixon stated they met with the Sheriff's Office and the provider for the cameras.

Commissioner Simpkins asked where they were with the salary schedule. Mr. Dixon stated he will have a meeting on Friday and then present it to them. Commissioner Simpkins also mentioned looking into sidewalks in unincorporated areas.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned Beaver Creek Drive and asked if it was private or public. Mr. Young stated the County maintains a portion of it.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned the bridge dedication in Honor of Earline Clemmons and thanked the staff.

Commissioner Hinson mentioned striping. Mr. Dixon stated they have completed the striping that they had funded last year.

Chair Ronterious Green, District 5

Chair Green thanked Mr. Young for the ramp at Lake Talquin. Chair Green mentioned a Health Coordinator and asked where they were with that. Mr. Dixon stated they were developing that position.

Chair Green asked about Steven School. Mr. Dixon stated they received authorization on the 1st to use grant funds. After approval, they will run advertisement to select construction.

Chair Green mentioned sidewalks and stated Spooner Road needed a sidewalk.

Commissioner Hinson presented Tim Miller from the Town of Havana. Mr. Miller appeared before the Board and stated that the contract extension they were given referenced certain portions of the contract. He stated their Attorney found that it would be better rewritten as an extension of the contract in its entirety. Since September 30, they have not been covered under the County Fire Contract.

Motion to Adjourn

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

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**Ronterious Green, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY,
FLORIDA ON FEBRUARY 15, 2024 AT 4:00 PM, THE
FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Ronterious Green, Chairman, District 5
Alonzetta Simpkins, Vice-Chair, District 2
Eric Hinson, District 1
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
Brenda Holt, District 4
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order, Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Green called the workshop to order at 4 p.m. Chair Green provided Invocation and then led into the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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Chair Green read aloud the above statement.

John Browning, 408 China Berry Lane

Mr. Browning stated he was with Concord Volunteer Fire Department and stated he heard Chief Hood talking about insurance and paying premiums on the trucks. Mr. Browning mentioned that they have 12 certified firefighters. They would like to request funding for their department of \$75,000 so they could put a paid-on-call system in place.

Mr. Browning also mentioned there not being enough money in the stipend program. He stated if they run 62 calls and the stipend runs out, people will start to not respond to calls.

Jim Roberts, 2875 Mt. Pleasant Rd.

Mr. Roberts, Mount Pleasant Fire Lieutenant, appeared before the Board. He stated they had issues with the liability part of the insurance. He stated it seemed like they were double downing on the

liability piece of it, where the County is providing it and they also provide it. He stated they are fire departments first, not just a non-profit.

Robert Maxwell

Mr. Maxwell, member of Wetumpka Volunteer Fire Department, appeared before the Board. He stated they were formed in 1987 to provide fire protection. He stated over the years, they have purchased several trucks. He stated there was no County money that has gone into their truck payments and the maintenance.

Kendrah Wilkerson, 711 N. Main St. Havana, Danny Hunter, 202 E Lake Road

Ms. Wilkerson, Town Manager of Havana, Chief Hunter, and Chief Russo appeared before the Board. They have made requests for changes.

Ms. Wilkerson mentioned the fifth “Where As” on the contract where it stated at the end of the sentence “in the immediate vicinity” and asked to either strike that language or define what the immediate vicinity is.

Commissioner Hinson stated the County dropped the ball. He stated it would be fair to just have another workshop so they could go through it and not rush it.

Chair Green requested to come back to this and have a separate workshop due to the many changes they want to make. He stated there was no problem if they want to present it now but he would prefer to have more time.

Ms. Wilkerson stated she met with County staff on Tuesday. They redlined it with their comments thinking that this was a workshop designed to be a discussion. She thought this was the workshop to be heard.

Commissioner NeSmith asked Chief Hunter and Chief Russo if they both had an opportunity to meet with Chief Hood and go over the original. They both stated yes.

Chair Green stated he would get with the admin office to schedule a workshop with the Town of Havana, City of Gretna and Midway.

Commissioner Holt stated Chief Hood and the County Attorney needed time to go over this as well. She also mentioned that this was not the County's fault.

Tabatha Nelson, 216 Country Club Drive

General Business

1. Discussion and direction regarding the Fire Services Contracts

Ms. Daniels presented the item and stated the discussion will be led by EMS Director Chief Hood. Chief Hood appeared. He stated they have obtained some ideas and concerns about the contracts that were in place. He mentioned that in their packets, they have been provided with the list of concerns that every unincorporated department and municipality has brought to them. Chief Hood went through the packet with the Commissioners.

Chair Green asked if they had any numbers on what the insurance would look like. Chief Walker stated he heard it would be a crazy amount.

Commissioner Simpkins appeared at 4:11 p.m.

Chief Hood stated it would be due diligence in the County's behalf to put a clause in there as it relates to what happens if the vehicle gets totaled.

Chief Hood mentioned the County paying repairs for non-county owned vehicles exceeding \$1,000 but not to exceed \$10,000. This concerned the unincorporated departments because it could cost \$30,000 for repairs.

Chief Hood stated that with the municipalities and unincorporated departments, it used to say that the records were due by the 10th day at the end of each quarter and they were requesting to be changed to 30 due to bank statements not being received on time.

Chief Hood stated in the unincorporated areas, it was suggested for an increase of 37,500. They were also requesting a 3-year contract versus a one-year contract with the unincorporated areas.

Chief Hood mentioned the Stipend program. He stated this would funnel through the County. The unincorporated areas have a stipend program for a max of \$7,500 annually. Chief Hood mentioned training programs that they were trying to implement in the County.

Chair Green asked about the incentive part of it. He thought that it could be a little complicated to submit and then wait for payment to come from the Clerk's office. As long as they were getting the required documentation, he thought it would be a lot simpler for the fire departments to pay their own people the incentives and give the County proof that they have done that.

Commissioner Holt asked about the purpose of the 24-hour notice. Chief Hood stated for County-owned facilities, there should not be a requirement for a 24-hour notice. The County does not own all of the buildings. Commissioner Holt asked which ones do they not own. Chief Hood stated Wetumpka, Concord, and was not sure about the others.

Commissioner NeSmith stated there were 2 issues they have. He asked the Attorney if any volunteer fire departments currently have any liability insurance. Mr. Knowles stated not to his knowledge.

Commissioner NeSmith stated this commission has spoken passionately about this. He wanted the first responders to have all the tools. There were many issues that are different in each fire department. He stated it would have been easier with just one Gadsden County Fire Department.

Commissioner Simpkins asked the County Attorney if they had liability for the volunteer fire departments. Mr. Knowles stated they have their own liability policy that is like an umbrella policy for the county. Chief Walker stated he spoke with a representative from Pat Thomas and she said that the fire department are covered under the county liability insurance. Commissioner Simpkins asked if there were currently covered under their policy and the insurance company is saying that they could continue to be covered under their policy? Chief Walker stated that was his understanding that he got from the representative. They were trying to get them to do a letter saying that but they were not

able to. Chair Green stated when they spoke earlier, he was hoping for some type of letter. Chief Walker stated Mr. Thomas wanted to be here but he was out of town and could attend the regular meeting on Tuesday.

Commissioner Hinson stated there were a lot of lingering questions and that was why he asked for this workshop. He asked if they could add additional amount to cover the insurance. They could pay for it and give them a timeline.

Ms. Daniels stated if they are currently being covered under the County liability insurance, they are already covering that.

The County Attorney stated FACT provides their liability coverage and FMIT provides the coverage for their vehicles. He stated that the vehicle coverage is there and he would like to hear more from the carrier with respect to how the general liability piece works. He wanted to make sure the Board understands that those are separate lines of insurance and they need to make sure they understand that not only are the vehicles going to be insured for liability but also for the acts that these departments take are also insured under their policy as well.

Chair Green stated to allow for the County Administrator to provide more information and talk more on this at the regular meeting on Tuesday.

Commissioner Hinson asked if they could get three quotes from different insurance agencies so they could have a better rate as well. The County Attorney stated they could do that; FACT and FMIT are going to be the best.

Mr. Roberts stated in regard to trucks out of service, the County could provide them a piece of apparatus to replace that temporarily while the repairs are being made.

Mr. Paramore stated he spoke with John Pat Thomas and Mr. Thomas was willing to have a conversation with the Chair on Monday. Mr. Thomas stated the individual firefighter is covered under the GL Policy along with the County's Workers Comp policy. What was in question was the non-owned County Apparatus.

Commissioner Simpkins stepped out at 5:22 p.m.

Commissioner Simpkins returned at 5:22 p.m.

Commissioner Holt stated on page 9, they should fill out the tax form. Chief Hood stated they were requesting to give them the amount in whole and they distribute the stipend to their department versus the Clerk's Office cutting checks to the firefighters. The County Attorney verified that the department would get a 1099 from the County for the stipend amount plus whatever else the Board funded.

Commissioner Simpkins believed they need to give the stipend to the volunteer fire departments. She stated they are supposed to complete a roster each time there is a call. The roster gives them a record of who reported to fires.

Chair Green stated there may be some departments that do not use all \$7,500. They maybe need something in writing.

Commissioner Holt asked Chief Hood what would be his best scenario on this. Chief Hood stated there are departments that want to have 1099 with the individual firefighters and there are other departments that want the County to give the money upfront and let them distribute it. Chief Hood believed they have a better way of tracking funding if it was held within the County.

Commissioner Simpkins stated they were talking about \$7,500 for the year. They were not doing that much tracking. They were at a dilemma because some of the firefighters want them to do a 1099 and others just want to receive the \$7,500. Her preference would be to just give each department their \$7,500.

Mr. Roberts stated for them, it was about the people available to do the work. They do not have staffing available to manage all of that. He wanted the County to manage that piece of it by issuing the 1099.

Chair Green asked the County Attorney if it was possible to make that optional. Mr. Knowles stated the easiest way to do it was to find out which departments want to be 1099 and which departments could do it on their own. They could change the language to reflect it.

Ms. Daniels went on to the next section and stated it involved the municipalities. Chief Hood stated most changes are the same. There was a red line through Havana; they presented their own contract.

Ms. Wilkerson stated when they met with staff, they had prepared an alternate contract. She stated for purposed of this conversation, go ahead and include Havana in this contract. They had similar concerns. They made the same changes and requests in this version.

Chief Hood mentioned the stipend program and stated that the Town of Havana did request the stipend program to be \$25,000 annually instead of \$5,000.

Commissioner Holt stated if they have firefighters trained, they need them to be where they are needed and be mobile. Commissioner Hinson believed it was more convenient if someone lives in that area. Commissioner Holt stated she said that because it would improve ISO rating.

Commissioner Simpkins asked Chief Hood if he met with Chattahoochee and Greensboro and if they were fine with the contract. Chief Hood stated that was correct.

Commissioner Simpkins stated they have dragged this out; they met at tri-eagle a few months back. They need to get to a point where everything is not an emergency and not wait until the last minute.

Chief Hood brought to their attention that the contract also lists Chattahoochee and Greensboro with the Town of Havana. He wanted to be transparent; he had concerns about new contract that was presented 30 minutes ago showing Chattahoochee and Greensboro. Chair Green asked Chief Hood if he could reach out to Chattahoochee and Greensboro so they could be on the same page.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned the Town of Havana extension. Chair Green stated it is on the Agenda for Tuesday.

Motion to Adjourn

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN DECLARED THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED AT 6:33 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

RONTERIOUS GREEN, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY,
FLORIDA ON FEBRUARY 20, 2024 AT 4:00 PM, THE
FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Ronterious Green, Chairman, District 5
Alonzetta Simpkins, Vice-Chair, District 2
Eric Hinson, District 1
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
Brenda Holt, District 4
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order, Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Green called the workshop to order at 4 p.m. Chair Green led into the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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Chair Green read aloud the above statement.

Discussion and Direction regarding the Non-Profit Organizations

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. He stated Ms. Burgess will walk them through the process they have laid out for them.

Ms. Burgess appeared before the Board and stated this program was established to help local non-profits. The purpose of this was to provide an efficient and effective method for allocating non-profit grant funds. The process has several minimum requirements and operates on a two-year funding cycle.

Ms. Burgess stated to be considered for funding, the agency must complete an application. The applications will be accepted between July 1 and July 31 and evaluated by August 31. Fund disbursements are made at the beginning of the County's fiscal year, October 1. She mentioned that

they have \$50,000 budgeted for the non-profits funding program and they would need Board direction as far as what would be the maximum amount that each non-profit would be able to receive each fiscal year.

Ms. Burgess went on to the evaluation process and mentioned the Community Review Team. This team would be consisting of 5 members appointed by the County Commissioners. Each Commissioner would appoint one person from their district with experience as a community member and specialist who will serve as grant reviewer along with three County Staff. Agencies will be evaluated based on their service delivery model, potential capacity, and ability to meet State, Federal, Foundation, and other potential resource eligibility requirements. The Community Review Team has the discretion to request presentations, copies of legal documents, additional written responses, or site visits to aid their ability to evaluate the proposals. Each funding cycle the CRT will complete its review of the applications and determine funding recommendations. The recommendations rendered by the CRT are not subject to appeal. Each agency will receive a decision letter that includes the funding recommendation.

Ms. Burgess stated the minimum eligibility requirements for the program:

1. The agency would have to be a non-profit corporation, incorporated in Florida or authorized by the Florida Department of State to transact business in Florida.
2. The agency would have to be a 501c3 with the U.S. Department of Treasury.
3. The agency must be authorized by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to solicit funds.
4. The agency has obtained a sales tax exemption registration from the Florida Department of Revenue.
5. The agency has a Non-discrimination and Equal Opportunity Policy.
6. The agency has a Dual Check Signing Policy that requires two or more signatures based on certain fiscal thresholds approved by the board of directors.
7. If required by law, the agency has its books and records audited annually by an independent certified public accountant who has no affiliation with the agency and whose examination is made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards.

8. If the audit contains a schedule of findings, the audit includes a corrective action plan.
9. The agency has an IRS form 990 completed within the last fiscal year or filed an extension with the IRS.
10. The agency has an administrative cost of 25% or less as evidenced by the IRS Form 990 and/or audit.
11. The agency has a local board of directors and/or a local advisory board.
12. The agency has a Records Retention Policy.
13. The agency has a Conflict-of-Interest Policy.
14. The agency has a comprehensive Fiscal Management Policy.
15. The agency has proof of general liability coverage.
16. The agency has not received a program funding award from the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners.

Ms. Burgess stated as far as reporting requirement, each non-profit will provide quarterly financial reports. All agencies are required to submit bi-annual and Year-End Narrative Reports. A template will be provided for the reports.

Chair Green asked if anyone know approximately how many non-profit organizations they have in this County. Commissioner Holt stated they have to count churches also.

Chair Green stated he heard about selecting a member for a board to represent their district. Ms. Burgess stated each Commissioner will select a person from their district to be a part of that board in addition to three county staff employees.

Commissioner Simpkins appeared at 4:11 p.m.

Commissioner Holt stated they needed to look at the qualifications for the members of that board. They need someone that has had a 501c3 previously. She thought that they should have at least five years of experience operating in this county. She stated that board should also collect the data on the needs in the county.

Commissioner Hinson appeared at 4:15 p.m.

Commissioner Simpkins stated they do need a needs assessment completed in their county. They were just operating on what they think.

Chair Green stated they needed a better handle on what they could afford to do. He stated \$50,000 was not a lot of money. Ms. Burgess stated that the current year budget was \$50,000 but \$10,000 was utilized, so they currently have \$40,000 in the budget.

Alma Venisee stated it was not a lot of money so she did not think that a lot of non-profits would apply for it. They may not carry liability insurance. She stated it was their responsibility to set the categories they want to fund.

The County Attorney mentioned the Sunshine Law. They need to make sure if this was the route they were taking, meetings needed to be held in the sunshine notice and minutes need to be done. He also mentioned churches and stated to make sure there were specific restrictions on what they can and cannot do with the money.

Commissioner NeSmith stated they need a Coordinator. They need to make sure to fund the non-profits properly. He mentioned having galas and events to raise the money to get organizations involved. Chair Green stated to consider adding workshops quarterly to spearhead.

Commissioner Simpkins stated they have a grants person that could share their expertise on grant writing. She stated workshops are a great idea. She asked if the requirements are for current non-profits they fund as well or just new ones.

Ms. Venisee stated would use the \$40,000 to build infrastructure for non-profits interested. Carolyn Ford appeared and stated they need to look at the needs in the community.

Commissioner NeSmith asked the County Administrator about the responsibility for the advisory board. Dixon stated did not draft up any

Commissioner Simpkins stated start with appointing 5 members, then staff can give them further instruction of their role on that board. Mr. Dixon stated appointing the board will allow for the assessment.

Commissioner NeSmith asked once the advisory board selects an organization, does it come to the Board for approval. Mr. Dixon stated yes.

Chair Green stated once they get those 5 members, they could work out with the County Administrator on the timeframe; he would like to see it done within the next month.

Motion to Adjourn

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN DECLARED THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED AT 5:29 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**RONTERIOUS GREEN, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON FEBRUARY 20, 2024 AT 6:00
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Ronterious Green, Chairman, District 5
Alonzetta Simpkins, Vice-Chair, District 2
Eric Hinson, District 1
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
Brenda Holt, District 4
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Green called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Chair Green provided Invocation. Ms. Kayla led into the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Dixon stated he had an amendment to add item 6a and items 9a, 9b, 9c, 9d, 9e.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED AND
COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO
APPROVE.**

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

CONSENT

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH THE
EXCEPTION OF ITEM 4,5, AND 6 BEING PULLED FOR DISCUSSION. COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE
THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.**

Commissioner Simpkins requested item 4 and Commissioner NeSmith requested item 6 to be pulled for discussion. Commissioner Hinson requested item 5.

1. Ratification Memo

2. BOCC Meeting/ Workshop Minutes

- **January 23, 2024 Public Hearing**

3. Approval of the Affordable Housing Committee Housing Incentives and CDBG Application Selection

~~4. Approval of Task Order with AE Engineering, Inc. for Park Master Plan~~
Pulled for discussion.

~~5. Approval of Task Order with ALDAY Howell Engineering, Inc. for Striping Project~~
Pulled for discussion.

6. Approval of Change Order #1 for CR 65 Attapulcus Highway

~~6a. Approval for Staff to Submit an Application to the Florida Department of Commerce, Capital Projects Digital Connectivity Technology Program (DCTP)~~
Pulled for discussion.

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

4. Approval of Task Order with AE Engineering, Inc. for Park Master Plan

Commissioner Simpkins stated in the task order it has inventory of facilities, equipment, and thought some of these things Staff should be able to do. Mr. Dixon stated the inventory they might do is not the same inventory that the engineers are doing. Once they do their inventory, they are delivering a park master plan. They are also developing opportunities that they might have in the future to write grants for these particular parks.

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

5. Approval of Task Order with ALDAY Howell Engineering, Inc. for Striping Project

Commissioner Hinson asked the County Administrator to give a brief synopsis on this item. Mr. Dixon stated they seek to hire engineers to go through and determine the roads listed in the inventory and what level of striping they need.

Commissioner NeSmith asked the County Administrator if there were any additional resources for striping. Mr. Dixon stated he was not aware of dollars that they were not attacking.

Commissioner Hinson asked how much money did they have in sales tax for this project; maybe need a workshop on this. Mr. Dixon stated he would get those numbers to him.

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

6a. Approval for Staff to Submit an Application to the Florida Department of Commerce, Capital Projects Digital Connectivity Technology Program (DCTP)

Mr. Dixon presented the above item.

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

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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.org 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 via Zoom using the credentials on the County's website.

Chair Green read aloud the above statement.

Dr. Tracey Stallworth, 770 Selman Road

Dr. Stallworth mentioned Pastor Lewis was killed at an illegal establishment in Havana. He was asking to create an Ordinance regarding the illegal internet cafes.

Kimberly Butler, 105 Simmons Attapulgis, GA

Kimberly Butler appeared before the Board. She stated her husband Rev. Lewis gave his life up for someone else. She stated these cafes have got to go. She stated her co-worker was robbed and was told not to call police due to the establishment being illegal. She would hate to see someone else lose their life.

Commissioner Holt thanked her for her comments. She stated she had this discussion and felt like they should write an Ordinance where they do not allow the internet cafes in the County.

Marshelle Martin, 210 Prescott Place

Ms. Martin stated she was the cousin-in-law of Pastor Lewis. She stated there has been many robberies in the area due to the same cafes being around.

Commissioner Holt stated they need an Ordinance to state internet cafes were not allowed in the County. The County Attorney stated the state already declared internet cafes illegal. Mr. Dixon mentioned an ordinance that allows the sheriff to enforce the state portion of the Ordinance. It is a state statute.

The County Attorney stated the Sheriff is trusted with enforcing the law and he was not sure the County could pass an ordinance that would order a separate constitutional officer to undertake much of anything. They are not a law enforcement entity.

Commissioner Hinson stated if something was illegal, they were not the enforcers. He stated he has been saying for years that they needed to do something about these internet cafes. It was not a county commission issue. By putting an ordinance, they were putting Code Enforcement at risk. If something illegal was taking place, you call the Sheriff's Department not the Board of County Commissioners.

Commissioner Holt asked the County Attorney to look at drafting an Ordinance that was compatible with other towns, cities, counties that are saying that these things are illegal. Mr. Knowles stated he did look at other counties and they all addressed it from a land development perspective. He stated that Commissioner Hinson had a good point in that it puts them in legal limbo. If the Board wanted to address this, then they could present an ordinance and he would work with growth management to address it.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

7. Approval of Resolution 2024-003 Grant Budget Amendment for FY 2024

Mr. Dixon presented above.

Ms. Daniels stated there was a correction to the amendments. Number 2024-045 needed to be stricken and included in 2024-010. She mentioned that budget amendment 2024-003 was the Sheriff Deputy salary assistance grant and budget amendment 2024-010 was for the EMS Facility grant. Ms. Daniels also clarified that budget amendment 2024-033 was for the Stevens School grant.

Commissioner Hinson asked the County Administrator to expand on budget amendment 2024-014 Shelter Retrofit program. Mr. Dixon stated that was the grant at the hospital. They were retrofitting it to hold special needs like hurricanes, etc.

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

8. Approval of 180-Day Interlocal Fire and Rescue Service Agreement Extension Between Gadsden County and the Town of Havana

Mr. Dixon presented the above item.

Commissioner Hinson asked if anything was changed. The County Attorney stated they were only approving the extension 180 days retroactive to the end of the prior contract which would give them 2 and a half months left.

Commissioner Holt asked about the difference between the two documents. Mr. Knowles stated there was no substantial difference. Commissioner Holt stated if there was nothing substantial about the difference in the two, then you do not normally have your contractor re-write your contract.

Commissioner Simpkins stated they did not pass this in the last meeting because they needed time to read the differences she thought. She stated there was no difference as it related to services, just the wording.

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

9. Approval of Fire Department's Interlocal Fire and Rescue Service Agreements

Mr. Dixon stated he had conversations with the Town of Greensboro, City of Chattahoochee, City of Gretna, and the City of Midway. They all asked that they be removed from the group position and that their contracts be individually approved based on the contract that the county had submitted.

The County Attorney stated they did speak with their insurance agent John Pat Thomas. They have in writing that the volunteers are covered both under their workers' comp.

COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE ITEM 9 AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

9a. Approval of Town of Greensboro Interlocal Fire and Rescue Service Agreement

COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE ITEM 9A AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

9b. Approval of City of Chattahoochee Interlocal Fire and Rescue Service Agreement

COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE ITEM 9B AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

9c. Approval of City of Gretna Interlocal Fire and Rescue Service Agreement

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE ITEM 9C AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

9d. Approval of City of Midway Interlocal Fire and Rescue Service Agreement

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE ITEM 9D AND CHAIR GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

9e. Approval of Volunteer Fire Departments Interlocal Fire and Rescue Service Agreement

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE ITEM 9E AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

10. Approval to Create a Position for a County Health Coordinator

Mr. Dixon presented the above item.

Commissioner Hinson stated they should have a budget workshop first. Commissioner Holt asked if there was a line item for this and Mr. Dixon stated not at this time.

Chair Green asked about the salary and Mr. Dixon stated he was not sure. Chair Green asked to table this.

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

Clerk of Court

No Updates.

County Administrator

Mr. Dixon stated it was Black History Month. They have a Parade and Gala Saturday. He also mentioned that Justin Stiell would be leaving to pursue other opportunities.

Mr. Dixon introduced the new HR Director, Lisa Burroughs.

County Attorney

Mr. Knowles mentioned that the redistricting lawsuit against the Board had been stayed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Eric F. Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson stated he met with someone on a project for the County. He thanked Congressman Lawson. He wanted to tell the Commissioners that he loved them.

Commissioner Kimblin E. NeSmith, J.D., District 3

Commissioner NeSmith asked where they were with the legal services contracts. Mr. Dixon stated the RFP will be ready in a day or two.

COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE A MOTION TO ENTER A MONTH-TO-MONTH CONTRACT WITH THEIR EXISTING LEGAL SERVICES FIRM UNTIL THEY ARE ABLE TO DETERMINE WHAT ISSUES THEY WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND WITH DISCUSSION. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Holt asked the County Administrator if he looked at other contracts and Mr. Dixon stated yes, he will send recommendations.

Chair Green asked for the recommendations be sent as soon as the County Administrator gets it and Mr. Dixon stated yes.

COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE A MOTION TO RECOGNIZE COMMISSIONER DIANNE WILLIAMS-COX AND CHAIR GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS MOTION.

COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE A MOTION TO RECOGNIZE CURTIS RICHARDSON AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS MOTION.

Commissioner NeSmith congratulated Willie Simmons on the award for National Coach of the Year.

Commissioner NeSmith mentioned Stevens School. Mr. Stiell appeared before the Board and stated they received word from Florida Commerce that they had approved the bid documents. He stated they were going to meet with the budget department tomorrow on the RFP so they could get that out as soon as possible. It would be 21 days from that point, then that will come back to the Board for the approval of a contractor.

Commissioner NeSmith stated that they need a plaque with all districts that goes back to all the commissioners in the history of Gadsden County.

Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt mentioned that last week, she testified before the senate subcommittee on the term limits for commissioners. She stated it was a concern because if the Board's turn over quickly, they were not going to have any one that know the laws and a lot of those ordinances.

Commissioner Holt wanted the County Administrator to find out the cost of funding a full-time fire station and bring it back to the Board.

Commissioner Holt stated she would like for the County Attorney to bring back an ordinance regarding the internet cafes.

Vice Chair Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2

Commissioner Simpkins stated on February 29 at 6 p.m., she will be hosting a community meeting to discuss parks.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned lighting and asked where they were with that. Mr. Dixon stated they have not started on it yet.

Commissioner Simpkins asked about the timeline on the salary schedule. Mr. Dixon stated he spent most of the day with the HR Director going over the salary survey.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she saw a post on Facebook and noticed Commissioner Holt at the School Board meeting and they were discussing the county partnering with the School Board as it related to land and that the Board supported it. Commissioner Simpkins stated she did not remember that coming before the Board. She stated she did not know anything about anything taking place at the School Board meeting. Chair Green stated he also had those same concerns and wanted to make it known that he was not happy about what he saw because nothing had officially come across the Board. He also wanted an explanation on this because he was very livid.

Mr. Dixon stated they have been talking to members of the School Board at the request of the Board for nine months about school and school locations. They are conversations and not intended to hold this body to anything. He stated they simply committed to was to help the School Board look for alternatives to their situation. They were out looking for a location for the Boys and Girls Club. They happened to run up on a landowner who was very interested in what they were doing. Mr. Dixon apologized and stated it should not have been interpreted as anything except them looking at this opportunity.

Commissioner Simpkins ended with a question:

“If we remain on the spending trajectory that we’re on, where will we be five years from now?”

Commissioner NeSmith asked about the Summer Youth Program. Mr. Dixon stated as soon as they were out of February, they would be devoting a lot more resources to the development of that program.

Chair Ronterious Green, District 5

Chair Green asked Mr. Young to drive by the public library in Quincy and check the lighting. The direction of the lighting was not angled in the best positions.

Chair Green asked about Serenity Lane. Mr. Young stated he spoke with someone out there and was waiting for that person to pick up the package.

Chair Green asked Mr. Young about Highbridge and Joe Adams Road. He asked about putting a 4 way stop sign because of accidents. Mr. Dixon stated it has to be led up to, because the traffic was so fast.

CHAIR GREEN MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR REGINALD WASHINGTON CELEBRATING 30 YEARS AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND WITH DISCUSSION. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS MOTION.

Commissioner NeSmith asked to make sure these were in plaques for history purposes. Chair Green stated they would need more discussion on that.

Dr. Stallworth asked about the workshop for internet cafés. Chair Green stated they would not know the date yet for the workshop.

Chair Green provided a green light moment:

“It’s never too late to be what you might have been.”

Motion to Adjourn

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:21 PM.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**Ronterious Green, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON MARCH 5, 2024 AT 6:00 P.M.,
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Ronterious Green, Chairman, District 5
Alonzetta Simpkins, Vice-Chair, District 2
Eric Hinson, District 1
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3, appeared thru Zoom
Brenda Holt, District 4
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Green called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. Commissioner Simpkins provided Invocation. Chair Green led into the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Dixon stated he had an amendment to pull item 15; a meeting has been set.

Commissioner Holt stated to add TDC items from the February 12 TDC meeting for approval. Mr. Dixon stated to add it as item 8a under consent. Commissioner NeSmith asked about the item packet for the TDC items. TDC minutes from February 12 were passed out to the Commissioners.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AMENDED AGENDA AND
COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

CONSENT

Vice-Chair Simpkins asked to pull items 3,4,5, 13, and 14. Commissioner Hinson asked to pull item 12.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH THE
EXCEPTION OF THE ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE
SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

1. Ratification Memo

(Clerk of Court)

2. Approval to Confirm the Director of Human Resources

3. Approval to apply for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant

Pulled for discussion.

4. Approval of the Amended Contract with AE Engineering, Inc. for Engineering Consulting Services

Pulled for discussion.

5. Approval of the Amended Contract with ALDAY Howell, Inc. for Engineering Consulting Services

Pulled for discussion.

6. Approval of Bid Award to Capital Asphalt, Inc. for Hardaway Highway Resurfacing

7. Approval of Task Order with Alday-Howell, Inc. for CEI Services on Hardaway Highway

**8. Approval of Agreement the State of Florida Department of Transportation Off-System Utility
Adjustment Agreement for (High Bridge Road) over Little River Bridge**

8a. Approval of TDC Funds February 12 Meeting

Pulled for discussion.

9. Approval of Bid Award to Roberts & Roberts for Spooner Road

10. Approval of Supplemental Agreement for Spooner Road

11. Approval of Task Order with AE Engineering for CEI Services on Spooner Road

~~12. Approval of Task Order (Design-Survey) – Barineau Road Over Willachoochee Creek Bridge Rehabilitation~~

Item pulled for discussion.

~~13. Approval of FDOT Grant Applications Resolution~~

Item pulled for discussion.

~~14. Approval of Task Order with AE Engineering, Inc. FDOT Grant Application~~

Item pulled for discussion.

~~15. Approval of the Town of Havana Interlocal Fire and Rescue Service Agreement~~

Item pulled.

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

3. Approval to apply for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant

Commissioner Simpkins state she received concerns from the fire departments relating to applying for the grant. She asked what data was being used. Chief Hood appeared.

Chair Green asked if they could all apply for the same grant. Chief Hood stated they could which could be troublesome.

Chief Hood stated not it was not written from a single department, it was from the County level. Chair Green asked if the department applied in the past. Chief stated yes, not sure of success rate. Mr. Dixon stated he talked with Havana; they have not applied for any grants. Commissioner Holt stated if there is fire in any city, they call several fire stations to help. Chief Hood stated communication could be better.

Commissioner NeSmith stated they were utilizing a system that is not working and they need to come up with a better system.

Commissioner Simpkins stated they attended a fire chief meeting with Chief Walker; need to do better job on their end on communication.

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

4. Approval of the Amended Contract with AE Engineering, Inc. for Engineering Consulting Services

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. Commissioner Simpkins stated she had a problem with task orders not coming before the Board. Mr. Dixon stated these task orders do not have to do with the overall project; just single-issue items.

Commissioner Simpkins stated they need to make sure things are put in a timely manner.

Commissioner Holt stated they were about to do major projects; should not be worried about \$35,000.

Ms. Daniels stated there is no fiscal impact with amending the contract; just gives additional authority to the County Administrator to be able to move task orders more quickly.

COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE THIS ITEM AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER HINSON AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS OPPOSED.

5. Approval of the Amended Contract with ALDAY Howell, Inc. for Engineering Consulting Services

COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE THIS ITEM AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER HINSON AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS OPPOSED.

12. Approval of Task Order (Design -Survey) - Barineau Road Over Willachoochee Creek Bridge Rehabilitation

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

13. Approval of FDOT Grant Applications Resolution

Mr. Dixon presented the above item.

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

14. Approval of Task Order with AE Engineering, Inc. FDOT Grant Application

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THIS ITEM AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS OPPOSED.

8a. Approval of TDC Funds

Commissioner Holt stated in the TDC Meeting on February 12, they approved \$10k for the Gadsden Arts center, \$10k for the Havana History and Heritage Society, \$10k for the Future Builders of America Las Vegas, \$35k for Black History Month, and \$15k for Treasure Hunt.

Commissioner Holt mentioned the fish competition. All activities are to draw people to the county. Also mentioned Future Builders of America and stated they wore county shirts.

Chair Green asked about the budget for TDC. The budget for TDC is \$92,000.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE TDC FUNDS FROM THE FEBRUARY 12 TDC MEETING AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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.org 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 via Zoom using the credentials on the County's website.

Chair Green read aloud the above statement.

Derrick Elias

Mr. Elias appeared before the Board. He stated he had never seen 15 items under consent agenda and suggested to itemized them.

Mr. Elias stated if items take 40 minutes to discuss about, then it should not be on the agenda. He asked who puts these things on the agenda and what monies does county pour back into City.

Mr. Elias mentioned animal control and asked what type of agreement was there between the County and the City. He stated there was 2 loose Pitbull's in his area and he called but no one responded to the call. He asked if there was a response time.

Mr. Dixon stated the staff designs the agenda. He stated they do have an agreement with Quincy for animal control services and stated if there was no response to the call, he would like to know about it.

Public Hearings

General Business

16. Updates

No updates.

17. Updates

(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator)

Mr. Dixon stated the audit was almost completed for the year. He stated they were awarded the Broadband funding; they were getting contracts in. They got approval to move on with the Boys and Girls club. He stated the COMP study was finished and will bring it to them in the next meeting. He mentioned that Summer Youth will start this week with having meetings. They started to draft the

lighting program. It will be a program that could take years and it depends on how they want to fund it. Mr. Dixon stated bulk item pick-up begins April 1 and runs through May 2.

18. Updates

(Clayton Knowles, County Attorney)

19. DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Eric F. Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson stated he enjoyed his time at Black History events.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR IRA SIMMONS AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Kimblin E. NeSmith, District 3

Commissioner NeSmith sent his condolences to the County Administrator. Commissioner NeSmith asked what was the status of Providence Road. Mr. Young stated he would report back to him on that. Commissioner NeSmith asked about Cane Creek bridge. Mr. Young stated he has not heard back from the engineer yet regarding the temporary fix of that bridge; he will reach out to him in the morning.

Commissioner NeSmith asked the County Administrator to fix potholes on Maple Street. He also mentioned Jones Street and asked for someone to take a look at that as well. He mentioned the Summer Youth program and stated it was extremely important to start soon. He asked if they were going to include CareerSource and Mr. Dixon stated yes.

Commissioner NeSmith asked about discussing the budget for the new budget season. Mr. Dixon stated as of today, they have not discussed it yet. Commissioner NeSmith asked Mr. Dixon they have produced the flyers yet for the bulk items pick up. Ms. Steele stated they will have that by the end of this week.

Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt mentioned Stevens School. Commissioner Holt stated she needed to know what was the process for receiving funds after providing services. She stated the finance department belongs to the Commission, not the Chamber.

Vice-Chair Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2

Commissioner Simpkins stated she would like a list of projects that have been completed so she could put a report together for her constituents.

Commissioner Simpkins stated the County Administrator mentioned lighting and asked for him to share that information with her. She mentioned cameras and asked where they were with that. Mr. Dixon stated he would follow up on that.

Commissioner Holt returned at 8:41 p.m.

Commissioner Simpkins asked about mowing. Mr. Young stated they will have a plan for it. Mr. Dixon stated they have talked about equipment being a big problem; has not addressed it.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she needed an office space so she could meet with individuals. She also asked what was the procedure when she needed to get in contact with the Administrator and he is not working. Chair Green stated they did not have a procedure for that.

Chair Green stepped out 8:48 p.m.

Chair Green returned at 8:49 p.m.

Commissioner Simpkins stepped out 8:52 p.m.

Commissioner Simpkins returned at 8:55 p.m.

Chair Ronterious Green, District 5

Chair Green stated prayers for the County Administrator and his family. Chair Green welcomed Dr. Burroughs. Chair Green thanked Mr. Young for being responsive and attending meetings.

Chair Green thanked Zeta Beta for starting new chapter in Gadsden County. He stated they agreed to adopt roads in the county.

Chair Green mentioned the Bicentennial and stated to have something for Latinos and Caucasians as well in Gadsden County. Also mentioned the Christian community. He wanted to make sure everyone was included to celebrate the bicentennial.

Chair Green stated on March 9, Wetumpka fire department is selling plates for \$10 for fundraiser.

Motion to Adjourn

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:13 PM.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**RONTERIOUS GREEN, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY,
FLORIDA ON MARCH 12, 2024 AT 5:00 PM, THE
FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Ronterious “Ron” Green, Chair, District 5
Alonzetta Simpkins, Vice Chair, District 2
Eric Hinson, District 1
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
Brenda Holt, District 4
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Green called the meeting to Order. He gave the Invocation and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD (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 via Zoom using the credentials on the County’s website. The Board’s meetings are also broadcast live on the Board’s Facebook page.

Chair Green read the above statement.

Morris Duncan, 1896 Kemp Road, Havana, FL

Kathryn Voight, 4131 Tallavana Trail, Havana, FL

Doug Croley, 255 Longview Lane, Havana, FL 32333

Matt Weslowski, Havana Council Member

Lawrence Reed, Havana Council member

Tabatha Nelson, Havana Council member

Karen Watson, 1795 Attapulugus Highway, Quincy, FL

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Discussion and direction regarding the Fire Services Contract with the Town of Havana

Mr. Dixon stated they were requested by Town of Havana to discuss the fire services contract.

Tabatha Nelson appeared before the board. She stated they want to continue to partner with the County and provide fire service for their residents. They have reviewed multiple versions of the contract and they were willing to discuss the version that the county provided the Quincy Fire Department. She stated their request for funding was \$105,000 with a one-and-a-half-year contract. The \$75,000 contract amount and the \$30,000 stipend.

Kendra Wilkerson, Town Manager, then appeared before the Board. She stated they had concerns regarding the stipend program. She asked when the funds are used up in the first quarter, what was the expectation on the firefighters to continue to respond with no compensation.

Chair Green asked what they were putting into the stipend program. Ms. Wilkerson stated the contract as written stated the town will fund half of the stipend cost or calls inside the town limits.

Ms. Nelson said they liked Quincy's fire contract; the contract Havana was given was different and volunteers cannot commit to it. The Issue when they first started was that when they were given new contracts, it went from a 2 page to 10-page contract. She stated the way it was worded makes their volunteer services non-existent. They want a 1 ½ year contract.

Ms. Wilkerson stated the volunteer firefighters are happy to protect this community, not just in the town limits of Havana. They felt that the county should be paying 80% of funding.

Matt Weslowski appeared before the Board. He stated 86% of their calls happen in the county.

Lawrence Reed appeared before the Board. He stated they want to work with the county and they want to serve Gadsden County. They cannot afford to keep working it out. They cannot

afford to keep doing it like they are.

Doug Croley appeared before the board. He made it clear he did not live in the Town of Havana but was dependent on the Town for fire services. They need to recognize Havana needs help. They need to better address this because Havana has lost ISO rating; they are now a 10. They need to help get better fire ratings. He stated they need to be focused on five road miles.

Kathryn Voight appeared before the Board; Board member of Tallavana Homeowners Association. She stated she was impacted and she did not live within Town of Havana but serviced by them and ISO has dropped. She hoped they consider their request for additional funding.

Morris Duncan appeared and stated he called Havana home for 34 years. He spoke on how talented the Havana Volunteer fire department is. He had a rental house that caught fire last year, it was a wood frame house built in 1935, it did not take long for it to go. Havana and Coonbottom fire departments came and stated anything that can be done to help would be appreciated.

Karen Watson appeared and stated she lived on Attapulgis Highway just shy of three miles from the Quincy fire department but is rated with Robertsville that is more than 5 miles from her house. She stated her Homeowner's insurance has jumped over \$7000 because of this. The 5-mile radius was not being considered and felt the contract would help clear up a lot of gray area. Her understanding was that the contract was sent to the city but not signed. Mr. Dixon stated yes.

Chair Green asked if Mr. Dixon or Chief Hood could explain how they came up with their numbers in this contract. Mr. Dixon stated they have the whole county to consider, including working with Quincy and other departments. It has been a problem for many years. He stated the Board directed him to stabilize the situation and that was what they were trying to do. He stated Quincy was looked at differently because they have a 24/7 manned station, therefore the contract was different. They looked at numbers in terms of what they could afford.

Chief Hood said the goal was to stabilize the situation. Every municipality was the same; they are all responding into the County areas. He stated they were almost at \$1.1 Million for contractual fire services. He asked the Havana Town Council about wanting to mimic the Quincy contract but they also stated that they were different. Some municipalities were paying to have a 24/7 manned station.

Chair Green asked Chief Hood if they have a ball figure on calls being answered. Chief Hood stated he did not have that information but he could get that for him. He stated the east side of the county is busier.

Commissioner Hinson wanted to piggyback on what Chief Hood just said about the east side being busier. He stated when looking at the census, everything was moving more to the east. He asked if it was reasonable to add additional resources to Havana Fire Department due to its increased calls. It was a question he wanted them to think about. He asked if they were putting limitations/rules on volunteer firemen that would stop them from becoming a firefighter.

Mr. Dixon stated that Commissioner Hinson hinted on a formula and there was no formula. The goal is to get the formula together and establish a base. He stated there had to be stabilization and standardization. Mr. Dixon stated they not only have Havana and Coonbottom but they just built a new fire station in Greenshade/Dogtown. He knows they need to increase across the county; 10 ratings all across the county.

Commissioner Holt said they were looking at the ability to look at everyone the same. She believed the County needs a county-wide fire service and she will be pushing for that. She stated they have 7-11 fire stations. She stated they have had Dispatch calling certain fire stations and not call the others and that built up certain calls from the Dispatcher. She said they had to call in in order to find out what was happening and she knew by the firetrucks that showed up who they were calling. She hoped that was not going on now. She was happy with the contract offered now. They need to look at having a full-time station on the east and west side of the county to have regional coverage. She stated that the verbiage in the contract cannot be the same because Quincy has a 24/7 full-time manned station. She stated she was interested in

finding out what was the difference in the contracts that they may have a problem with.

Commissioner Holt stated she was unhappy with the amount because they were going to have to figure out what to do with it.

Ms. Wilkerson stated based on the analysis and after the review with their legal counsel, the proposed contract they are willing to negotiate on is a 1 1/2-year term, funding for stipend and certified fire fighter bonus proposed by the county; includes funding by the county for 86% of their revised budget, elimination of unnecessary added administration and control being proposed by the county contract including training requirements, elimination of possible firefighter requirements above state mandate, elimination of county proposed requirements that do not improve fire service, only increased oversight by the county. Havana just added 11 new firefighters and almost \$10,000 each to outfit them. Havana does not have the resources to equip new firefighters they have.

Commissioner Simpkins said, as a Board, they have to realize the dynamics of the county is different. When they look at actual increases that took place with municipal fire departments, Havana received a 1% funding increase and asking for a 34% increase. She stated when they look at the numbers and what was stated when 86% of the calls were taken place in the unincorporated areas of the county and they were taking the 86% of the Town of Havana's calls were in that particular area, they need to take that in consideration. Havana has also allowed their employees to answer calls so cost to them allowing their employees on clock to go take care of calls in unincorporated areas. She stated they could not compare each municipality the same because the affordability was different. After the ISO situation was brought to her attention, they had a workshop at Tri-Eagle and it never came back to the table until a few weeks ago. Commissioner Simpkins stated they needed to look at numbers and services being provided and fund them accordingly. She stated they have \$1.1 Billion in the budget now and was curious as to what will it be if they decide to do a county fire service. She asked if it dealt with 5-mile radius in the contract. Mr. Dixon said it was in the Havana document, not county document. Commissioner Simpkins asked her fellow commissioners to take a look at what was in the best interest of the citizens as a whole. If Town of Havana does not answer calls, they would be in trouble.

Chair Green asked if the Town of Havana and the County does not come to a resolution of the contract, what would they fall back into? Mr. Dixon stated if Havana does not continue the contract, the other option would be to staff up the Dogtown facility and relocate resources to that area to respond to fire. He stated they had to look at this in a whole new way, not just in Havana.

Commissioner Hinson asked Chief Hood about the percentage given to Quincy. The County gave around 20%. Chief Hood said they had a 3-year contract from 2107-2021; they asked for an increase. Commissioner Hinson stated to be fair about the situation and go up at least 35%.

Mr. Croley re-appeared before the Board to clarify something. He told the County Administrator he appreciated the remark he made regarding if they could not come to terms with Havana, he would make them dependent on the Greenshade fire station. Mr. Dixon said he did not mean defund Havana.

Mr. Croley continued and said fire protection based upon emergency communications, fire departments and equipment, water supply, ability to respond, and the water supply was the major thing. That was why he asked if they were still maintaining their hydrant program. He stated that Greenshade was at a disadvantage by not having a central water supply. Mr. Croley mentioned that he has a fire hydrant within 1000 feet of his house that he paid for; bought from Talquin and turned it over to County for access. He stated water supply was very important and very important to have a business relationship with Havana for those in unincorporated areas with the Havana fire department. He stated it was very disturbing that there would be any consideration to not work out with some agreement with Havana. The majority of the population is on the eastern side of the county; naturally more houses, businesses, more exposure, more calls. Mr. Croley said they could not treat every community on an equal basis. They have to go by where exposure is and where response is needed. He told the Chair that he was counting on him to make leadership happen because it was needed.

Mr. Weslowski reappeared and asked for clarification on Mr. Dixon's comment about funding Greenshade. Mr. Dixon said the goal was never to "defund" Havana.

Chair Green said they will give as of right now, \$50,000 but if they do not accept that, question was, if Board does not offer any additional funding and they do not accept that, what is the plan? Mr. Dixon said they will follow the direction of the Board.

Commissioner Holt wanted to clarify that the reason of the increase in other stations was because they were underfunded and never funded correctly because they weren't getting calls. Dispatcher wasn't calling them. She said she knew that because she "sat in front of Gretna's fire station, had a young man to call in for a house next door and everyone was called but Gretna" and she stood in front of the fire station. The goal was to get them to where they should have been and look for funding for more. Commissioner Holt said "we're not a cash cow".

Commissioner Green stated he was glad to know other stations received an increase, but he wanted to be fair across the Board as far as stabilizing. He stated the whole energy needed to shift. Commissioner Simpkins said he hit the nail on the head and had nothing else to say.

Commissioner Hinson thanked the Town of Havana and the manager and council people for coming. He thanked Mr. Croley for all he's done. He also thanked the community for coming out in support of this project.

Commissioner Holt said to don't do for one that don't do for others. The reporting should be the same; documentation should be the same. She stated for it to be all fair and give the same percentage.

Commissioner Simpkins said the other municipalities signed their contract; Havana had a problem with theirs. Havana was now presenting their contract and their requests.

John Browning appeared and stated they do have volunteer firefighters. He stated that Unincorporated fire departments have not the signed contract because of miscellaneous provisions.

Commissioner Holt asked what was difficult. Mr. Browning said being Fire 1 certified. They have

to sign a contract that they are Fire I, Fire II, etc.

Chief Hood reappeared and stated he received a memo today from Chief Maxwell, Wetumpka and they have concerns about the way the contract reads. Mr. Dixon said the Attorney will get with them; it was a misunderstanding in the contract.

Commissioner Hinson wanted to make sure it was clear that insurance went up and it had nothing to do with BOCC. Mr. Dixon said yes, the portion of the insurance was because of ISO rating, part because of being in the State of Florida because of hurricanes, etc.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN DECLARED THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED AT 6:40 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

RONTERIOUS GREEN, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY,
FLORIDA ON MARCH 19, 2024 AT 6:00 P.M., THE
FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Ronterious Green, Chairman, District 5
Eric Hinson, District 1
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
Brenda Holt, District 4
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Opal McKinney-Williams, Assistant County Attorney
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Green called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Donovan Woods provided the Invocation and led into the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Dixon stated he had amendments to the agenda. He requested to pull items 11a and 15a and add items 10a, 10b, and 15b.

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

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

1. Proclamation Honoring Ida Price Simmons

Mr. Dixon presented the above proclamation. Commissioner Hinson stated Ms. Simmons was not present and he would deliver it personally.

CONSENT

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AND COMMISSIONER
NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.**

2. Ratification Memo

3. BOCC Meeting/ Workshop Minutes

- a. December 5, 2023 Regular BOCC Meeting
- b. February 15, 2024 Fire Services Workshop
- c. February 20, 2024 Non-Profit Workshop
- d. February 20, 2024 Regular BOCC Meeting

**4. Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Liens – State Housing Initiative Partnership
Program (SHIP)**

5. Approval and Signature for Satisfaction of Agreement and Lien

6. Approval of Off-System Utility Adjustment Agreement 441188-1 Hanna Mill Pond Road Bridge Replacement
7. Approval of Amendment No. 1 to Grant Agreement No. SC408 between (FDEP) and the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
8. Approval of the Lease Renewal Agreement with Great American Financial Services via Advanced Business System
9. Approval of a Proclamation for Family Abduction Awareness Day May 25, 2024
10. Approval of FY 2024 February – Monthly Expenditure Report of transactions outside the County Administrator’s Threshold
- 10a. Approval to Apply for the Florida E911 State Grant Program Application to Replace the Current 911 Call Handling System
- 10b. Approval of the Addendum to the Agreement for Legal Services with Pittman Law Group, P.L.

Items Pulled for Discussion

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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Chair Green read aloud the above statement.

Public Hearings

General Business

11. Approval of MOU Between Gadsden County Emergency Services and Gadsden County Health Department

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. This agenda item seeks Board approval of a memorandum of agreement between Gadsden County Emergency Services and the Gadsden County Health Department to work collaboratively to respond to the health and well-being of Gadsden County and

the citizens. The implementation of Community Paramedicine in Gadsden County will allow for citizens to receive care and needs addressed without calling 911 for emergency services. He stated this allowed EMS Staff to ride neighborhoods and Chief Hood and staff would know who all is in that neighborhood. They could provide supplies as necessary without calling 911. Mr. Dixon stated it was a work in progress with the Health Department.

Chief Hood appeared and stated Mr. Dixon pretty much hit the nail on the head.

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

11a. Approval of the Town of Havana Interlocal Fire and Rescue Service Agreement

Pulled.

12. Approval of Appointment/Re-appointment of Value Adjustment Board Members

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. It is presented to the Board to appoint/re-appoint members to the Value Adjustment Board. The current members of the Value Adjustment Board are Commissioner NeSmith, Commissioner Hinson, and Chrissy Shorter-Arnold, who was appointed by the Board as a homestead property representative.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THIS ITEM AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.

13. Board Direction Regarding Appointments/Re-appointments of Board Members to the Gadsden Hospital, Inc. Board of Directors

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. It is seeking Board direction regarding the appointments/reappointments to the Gadsden Hospital, Inc. Board of Directors.

Chair Green asked how many to fill vacancies and Mr. Dixon said 5. Chair Green asked how many agreed and Mr. Dixon stated most have resigned; they did not appoint last year. Chair Green asked if it was the Commissioner's responsibility to ask someone to join.

Commissioner Hinson stated they did not have a leg to stand on with this; maybe the attorney could negotiate.

Commissioner NeSmith stated they have talked about this hospital issue for a while and it was a complicated contract. Based on his reading, there were 7 openings out of 9. He stated under Class One and Class Two, they were all expired. Under Class Three, one resigned out of those 3 positions.

Commissioner Hinson stated to have a workshop to read the contract and see where they could go.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 OF THIS ITEM AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.

14. Approval of Supplemental Agreement for South Adams Street

Mr. Dixon presented the above item.

CHAIR GREEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THIS ITEM AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.

15. Approval of Flock Safety Agreement

Mr. Dixon presented the above item.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THIS ITEM AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

15a. ~~Approval of the Gadsden County Implementation Plan Relating the Gadsden County Opioid Settlement Funding~~

Pulled.

15b. Approval of a Resolution, the Florida Department of Transportation Agreement 451999-1-94-01, and the Big Bend Transit Memorandum of Agreement to Accept \$245,000 for Bus Shelters in Gadsden County

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

Clerk of Court

No Updates.

County Administrator

Mr. Dixon stated the Boys & Girls Club of the Big Bend have invited all to the Soiree on Saturday evening.

County Attorney

No Updates.

Discussion Items by Commissioners

Commissioner Eric F. Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson asked for a proclamation for 30th chapter anniversary for Alpha Fraternity.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION FOR A RECOGNITION FOR 30TH CHAPTER ANNIVERSARY AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE THIS RECOGNITION.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO RECOGNIZE DON WHITE AND CHAIR GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE THIS RECOGNITION.

Commissioner Hinson stated to continue to stay positive.

Commissioner Kimblin E. NeSmith, District 3

Commissioner NeSmith thanked the County Administrator for the Bicentennial free concert; he had an opportunity to meet stakeholders.

Commissioner NeSmith asked for an update on Cane Creek Bridge. Mr. Young appeared and stated the engineer gave 2 quotes, 2.1 million dollars, or 4.1 million dollars to get it torn out and completely replaced.

Commissioner NeSmith asked the County Administrator about Summer Youth. Mr. Dixon stated they have met with both programs; they were looking to meet with the public safety institute as well as the school district. Chair Green stated they need a workshop on Summer Youth.

Commissioner Hinson stated he believed they were overthinking things for the kids; they want to make sure the kids are busy doing something.

Commissioner NeSmith stated someone wanted to make a comment. Chair Green stated for him to continue.

Bonnie Foshee, 19 Sugarmill Way, Havana

Ms. Foshee appeared before the Board. She mentioned the flock program and was worried about Artificial Intelligence.

Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR RUBY BRADLEY AND CHAIR GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE THIS PROCLAMATION.

Commissioner Holt stated she has been talking to counties about fire services.

Commissioner Holt stated she has had 4 complaints about the emergency room. 2 were complaining about nobody being in the lobby, one complained about kiosk, and one complained about being taken to the wrong hospital.

Vice-Chair Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2

Absent.

Chair Ronterious Green, District 5

Chair Green stated they pulled item 15a but they need to have a more detailed conversation; he would like a workshop on this on Wednesday, March 27.

COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE A MOTION FOR A WORKSHOP ON ITEM 15A AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.

Commissioner NeSmith and Commissioner Holt rescinded their motion and second.

CHAIR GREEN MADE A MOTION FOR A SPECIAL MEETING ON ITEM 15A AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.

Chair Green thanked Ms. Whaley on the presentation. He asked the citizens to not put out bulky items too early.

Chair Green stated they need to put other things in the budget as it related to security.

Chair Green thanked the schools and special Olympics; he stated he gave an invocation. He stated they had a great time. He also mentioned that he wanted to do something for special needs individuals; he wants to find a special needs park.

Commissioner Holt mentioned that the bass tournament is on the 30th; she stated there is a \$5,000 reward on the first fish caught.

Commissioner Hinson stated they need a budget workshop soon.

Mr. Dixon stated to not confuse a party with selling the county; thousands show up. They were changing the way people think about Gadsden County.

Commissioner NeSmith provided a greenlight moment:

“It is not a disgrace not to reach the stars, but it is a disgrace to have no stars to reach for. Not failure, but low aim is a sin.” – Dr. Benjamin Elijah Mays

Motion to Adjourn

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:19 PM.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**Ronterious Green, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON APRIL 2, 2024 AT 6:00 P.M., THE
FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Ronterious Green, Chair, District 5, appeared through Zoom
Alonzetta Simpkins, Vice-Chair, District 2
Eric Hinson, District 1
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
Brenda Holt, District 4
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Vice-Chair Simpkins started the meeting at 6:01 pm. Ms. Thomas provided Invocation and led into the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

Amendments and Approval of Agenda

Mr. Dixon stated there were no amendments.

COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED AND CHAIR GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.

Awards, Presentations and Appearances

1. Recognition of Shontel Rittman

Commissioner Hinson stated Shontel Rittman was not present.

2. Recognition of Don White

Commissioner Hinson presented the recognition to Don White

Commissioner Holt appeared at 6:09 p.m.

3. Recognition of The Pi Psi Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Commissioner Hinson presented the recognition of the Pi Psi Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

4. Recognition of Ruby Bradley

Commissioner NeSmith presented the recognition to Ruby Bradley.

CONSENT

Vice-Chair Simpkins asked for a motion.

**COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AND
COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.**

5. **Ratification Memo**
6. **BOCC Meeting/Workshop Minutes:**
 - a. March 5, 2024, Regular BOCC Meeting
 - b. March 12, 2024 Havana Fire Services Workshop
7. **Approval to Sell Surplus Vehicles at Auction**
8. **Approval of Contract Extension with AECOM, Inc.**
9. **Approval and Signature on the E911 2024 Spring Rural County Grant Application for E911 System and MapFlex Annual Support and Maintenance**
10. **Approval of the Johnson Control Planned Service Agreement for Backflow and Hydrant Inspection at the W.A. Woodham Building**

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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.org 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 via Zoom using the credentials on the County's website. The Board's meetings are also broadcast live on the Board's Facebook page. Vice-Chair Simpkins read aloud the above statement.

John Browning, 408 China Berry Lane, Havana, FL 32333

Concord Volunteer Fire Department Additional Funding.

Letter of Support for Concord VFD to become a Special Fire Control District.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

11. **Board Direction regarding the Interlocal Fire and Rescue Service Agreement Between Gadsden County, Florida, and the Town of Havana, Florida**

Mr. Dixon stated this agenda item seeks Board direction regarding the Interlocal Fire and Rescue Service Agreement Between Gadsden County, Florida, and the Town of Havana, Florida. The Town of Havana has submitted their own proposal to Gadsden County. Attachment A represents the agreement that has been approved for the other municipalities and attachment B represents the agreement presented by the Town of Havana.

Commissioner Holt returned at 6:48 p.m.

Karen Bass, 407 E 9th Ave Havana, Florida

Ms. Bass urged the Commissioners to look at the wording of the contract. She presented a poster that showed there was 248 County fire calls and a total of 289 calls. She did not think the Town was asking for anything other than fair participation by the County.

Janice Eakin, 474 Timber Run Havana, Florida 32333

Ms. Eakin appeared before the Board. She stated the vote they take tonight for the Havana contract could be life or death. She stated it sounds dramatic but it was true. The fire department responds to the needs as well as they can. She stated these firefighter's jobs are seven days a week, 365 days a year. They are on call whether they are sleeping or having dinner with their family. When they respond to a call, they need to have the training and the gear. The 25k would help with that.

Neil Wade, 1259 Timber Run Havana, Florida

Mr. Wade appeared before the Board. He wanted to reiterate that County government has no greater responsibility than to provide for public protection and safety. He stated that when they are providing funding to the Havana Volunteer Fire Department, they are providing funding for county residents predominantly. He mentioned that there has been a shift of the population to the east side of the county. The contract proposed by the County does not do justice for the citizens of the unincorporated areas of Havana.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION FOR THE BOARD TO APPROVE INTERLOCAL FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE AGREEMENT ATTACHMENT B, PROVIDED BY THE TOWN OF HAVANA AND AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN ALL RELATED DOCUMENTS AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE THE SECOND. VICE-CHAIR SIMPKINS STATED IT WAS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION.

Chair Green asked if anyone from Havana was there, like Council or the Manager. Council Bass appeared. Chair Green asked what legislative act did they ask to assist with any services in Havana. Council Bass stated over the last two years they have asked for support to redo the Havana Public Safety Building and it would be tied in with the fire station. Hopefully the Governor would sign it as it would assist them in improving the fire station a little bit but mainly their police station. Chair Green asked if they applied for any grants for firefighters. Council Bass stated not that he knew of.

Commissioner NeSmith stated he has received several letters regarding this issue. He stated they take first responders very seriously and they have done everything in their power to make sure they have the resources they need. They need to come up with a better process where all

the municipalities will have an opportunity to make presentations. They do not have a system to manage all eleven entities.

Vice-Chair Simpkins stated they were going back and forth about \$25,000; they spend that in one event that does not have an impact on their citizens. They are sitting there saying they do not have a process. They met at Tri-Eagle and that was after the issue came up. She requested a workshop with all the municipalities and the fire departments regarding fire. The dynamics in Gadsden County are so different and they gave instructions for a process, which was to meet with each fire department. Equal is not always fair. Most of the calls are in the unincorporated areas and they are responsible for unincorporated areas. Vice-Chair Simpkins stated they keep talking about county wide fire services but she was trying to figure out how they are going to fund countywide fire services when they have a problem with paying \$25,000.

Commissioner Holt stated she looks at data. She stated there are several other counties that do not have this kind of system and there was a reason for that. If you have a lot of volunteer systems in place, they could withdraw at any time. She was willing to vote for a full-time station in Dogtown and putting in fire hydrants needed. She stated she went to Gretna and asked them to call in a fire. She was standing in front of the fire station. Quincy was coming, Mount Pleasant came, and so did Wetumpka. There are too many variables in this situation. She was not looking at the \$25,000; the system has to be fixed.

Candice Tremble, 1390 Talavanna Trail Havana, Florida

Ms. Tremble appeared and mentioned fire insurance. They need to have some kind of fire protection. How are they going to have fire service tomorrow in Havana if all they care about is putting a fire station in Dogtown some nebulous day in the future? They need to take care of each other.

Commissioner Hinson stated he thought he was coming to just approve it and that it would be a no-brainer. They saw that District 1 had almost 30% of the population in the County. He stated this was personal to him because of what he experienced personally.

Vice-Chair Simpkins stated fair is not always equal. They need to do the right thing and they have work to do. Greenshade-Dogtown was her area as well, but that is outside of a 5-mile radius for some of these citizens. Therefore, those that do not have insurance would not be able to get any and those trying to renew their insurance would not be able to. Those that have insurance will have an astronomical amount to pay. She was all for manning Dog-town, that was her area too, but she was also all for funding the Town of Havana because she needs to make sure that all of the citizens are covered.

Chair Green asked to give the real number, not \$25,000. Vice-Chair Simpkins said it was \$25,000 to increase the contract and up to \$25,000 for the Stipend.

Chair Green asked about the cost analysis; wants to be realistic about the numbers. He asked what they were looking at if Havana walked away. Mr. Dixon stated they did not have the cost analysis.

Ms. Eakin appeared again. She stated it takes months to plan a workshop and advertise it. She asked Commissioner Holt when they were going to build that fire station. They have to buy a land, go out for bids, draw the plans, etc. They are talking about 2 years down the road. What about today and tomorrow? Why has there not been a workshop? She could not believe the hesitation to vote for \$25,000.

Chair Green stated he had no issue with funding, it was more of the contract part.

Vice-Chair Simpkins stated the Town Manager did her due diligence as it relates to the contract. There were several emails that went out.

Chair Green asked what did the increase guarantee? Vice-Chair Simpkins stated it allows them to fund what needs to be funded so they could work on that rating going down.

Lauren Gydis, 132 Small Pond Road Havana, FL

Ms. Gydis stated they need this influx of funding so they can meet those requirements and call them back out this year to have it reevaluated.

Councilwoman Tabatha Nelson, Town of Havana 216 Country Club Drive

Ms. Nelson appeared before the Board and mentioned that Chair Green was asking about the grants. She stated one of the things they applied for was the AFG Grant. The extra money that they are having to put forth for the fire service and cover the budget, is taking away from us being able to buy the equipment that they need. The AFG grant is going to help them get a lot more equipment. The County has written a grant that will exclude theirs. The County does not include them when writing grants. ISO requires them to have \$5,000 set of turnout gear, \$5,000 SCVA tanks, masks, etc. Ms. Nelson asked Commissioner Holt if she had any ideas on how much it is going to cost to do a county wide fire service. Commissioner Holt stated she has looked at number but she was not going to share them tonight. She has looked at numbers from several different counties so she does have some idea about some numbers. That was public information and they could call them.

Commissioner Hinson stated he personally would like to be fair with things. He stated that Chair Green stated that due his family situation, he was mentally not there. If they wanted to take this on another day, they could come back. Chair Green stated he never said anything about his mental capacity, he is very sane and stable.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION FOR THE BOARD TO APPROVE INTERLOCAL FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE AGREEMENT ATTACHMENT B, PROVIDED BY THE TOWN OF HAVANA AND AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN ALL RELATED DOCUMENTS AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 2-3 AND THE MOTION FAILED. COMMISSIONER NESMITH, COMMISSIONER HOLT, AND CHAIR GREEN OPPOSED.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE ATTACHMENT A, COUNTY CONTRACT WITH THE TOWN OF HAVANA AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS OPPOSED.

12. Approval and Implementation of the Compensation Study

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. He stated Phase 1 of the compensation plan has consisted of three steps:

- **Step 1:** The BOCC increased the minimum starting salary to \$15.00 per hour system-wide.
- **Step 2:** The BOCC authorized the development and implementation of a system-wide Compensation Study.
- **Step 3:** Staff will ensure that ALL employees are at the median pay scale.

The proposed budget set forth for the implementation of a BOCC system-wide Compensation Study is estimated at \$414,627.96. This amount was calculated from an annual salary budget for full-time employees (FTEs).

The Office of Management Budget (OMB) reviewed the proposed salary changes by reviewing actual pay factors. The factors taken into consideration were:

- ✓ GCB OCC is almost halfway through its current fiscal year
- ✓ Vacant Positions
- ✓ Half-Time Positions
- ✓ Supplemental Department Funds

Increasing the base salary to \$15.00 hourly created pay compression, so has bringing position to the median wage. To resolve these pay inequities, with the approval and implementation of the Compensation Study, they will move to Phase 2.

Phase 2 will focus on the following:

1. Developing a 10-step pay plan with a 3-step premium.
2. Meeting with department heads and a sampling of employees from job classes impacted.
3. Analyze individual pay, years of experience, county service time, education, certification, etc.

As it stands, Human Resources anticipates completing Phase 2 of the study within 6 months.

Based on the analysis performed by OMB, the proposed salary changes can be accomplished in FY23-24 with minimal impact on the overall operating budget. The following major funds will be affected by the proposed changes:

1. General Fund – approximately \$67,000 increase
2. Public Works Fund – no change due to vacancy savings
3. EMS Fund – no change due to vacancy savings
4. Library Fund – approximately \$20,000 increase
5. Building Inspection Fund – no change due to vacancy savings

Commissioner Hinson stated when he looks at numbers, he has to compare it with something. He asked to have this more broken down. He asked to bring this back and vote on it to have a workshop first.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS ITEM AND HAVE A WORKSHOP ON ITEMIZED DATA. THE MOTION DIED DUE TO NO SECOND.

Vice-Chair Simpkins stated she requested a salary analysis for every position and she was comfortable going through with this. Dr. Burroughs explained to her the phases and gave her the answer as it related to each of the increases.

Commissioner Hinson stated they should have a workshop when dealing with money.

Commissioner Holt stated they received the information and they went over it and had the opportunity to discuss it with the Administrator and HR Director. Chair Green stated that was the same comment he was going to make. He spoke with management and worked through his questions.

Dr. Burroughs appeared. She stated initially the Board approved for the county to move forward in increasing the minimum wages. That was the initial step. If this is approved tonight, she will start meeting with the department heads next week. She also wanted to meet with the employees of those departments to have a Q&A. She stated that she had also mentioned creating a 10-step pay schedule with 3 step premiums. If they want to be competitive with surrounding counties, then this compensation plan was necessary.

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

13. Approval of the Gadsden County Implementation Plan, Health and Human Services Department and Coordinator Position

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. This agenda item seeks Board approval of the Gadsden County Implementation Plan for the State of Florida opioid settlement. The staff is requesting the creation of a Health and Human Services Department and the position for a Health and Human Services Coordinator.

Commissioner Holt stated she has no problem with the Health Coordinator but she does have a problem with the funding mechanism. She believed the half cent was taxed for a hospital.

Chair Green asked how long would they be looking to utilize the half cent funding to sustain this particular item. Their primary goal is to make sure they have the health care. Mr. Dixon stated in his perspective, it keeps the heat off the general fund. He stated if they wanted to pass the program without any other monies, they could do that.

CHAIR GREEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THIS ITEM AND EXCLUDE THE HALF CENT SALES TAX AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

CLERK OF COURT

14. Updates

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

15. Updates

Mr. Dixon reminded everyone about bulky items pickup.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

16. Updates

Mr. Knowles thanked everyone who showed up for his godmother's funeral, Daphne Lewis.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Ronterious Green, Chair, District 5

Chair Green thanked the Economic Development Director, TJ Lewis, for the meeting with the Appalachian Regional Committee. He also wanted to make it known that it is child abuse awareness month as well as autism awareness month. He asked for the Board to wear the color blue in the next meeting to bring awareness to autism.

17. Commissioner Eric F. Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson said District 1 will start bulky items pickup on April 1 in unincorporated areas.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt thanked everyone for the proclamation for Ruby Bradley.

Commissioner Holt asked the County Administrator why Housing was moved upstairs. Mr. Dixon stated there were space requirements and privacy requirements to think about.

Commissioner Kimblin E. NeSmith, J.D., District 3

Commissioner NeSmith stated the Lake Talquin Open was awesome. Commissioner NeSmith asked the County Administrator about Summer Youth. Ms. Burroughs appeared and stated their timeline was working well. They have determined the dates for the program which will be from

Monday, June 24 to Friday, August 2. They have confirmed 244 available jobs as of today. She wanted to recognize Gadsden Technical College who agreed to offer four different certification programs: principle of teaching, pharmacy technician, barbering, and automotive service technology. They have 15 to 20 slots per program. Ms. Burroughs stated they will also be partnering with CareerSource.

Commissioner NeSmith asked the County Administrator about Providence Road. Mr. Dixon stated they were in the design phase.

Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2

Commissioner Simpkins stated as a commissioner, her initial goal was to prioritize transparency and fiscal responsibility. She stated it bothered her when she hears people saying they still do not have anything for their citizens. They need to move on tangible things that their citizens can see. Commissioner Simpkins stated they need to make sure that when they leave those seats, that they have a positive lasting effect on this county

MOTION TO ADJOURN

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, VICE-CHAIR SIMPKINS
DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:35 PM.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**Ronterious Green, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON APRIL 16, 2024 AT 6:00 P.M., THE
FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Ronterious Green, Chair, District 5
Alonzetta Simpkins, Vice-Chair, District 2
Eric Hinson, District 1
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
Brenda Holt, District 4
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Green called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. Vice-Chair Simpkins provided invocation. Chair Green led into the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

Amendments and Approval of Agenda

Mr. Dixon stated he had an amendment to pull items 9,10, and 11. He wanted to add items 12a, Approval for the Finance Office to Process Payment for Keshia's Kitchen, and item 12b, Approval of the Big Bend Community Based Care, Inc. d/b/a NWF Health Network Business Agreement – Opioid Settlement.

COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

Awards, Presentations and Appearances

1. Proclamation for Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month

Mr. Dixon read aloud the above item. Commissioner Hinson presented the proclamation for Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month.

CONSENT

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

Commissioner NeSmith asked to pull item 5 for discussion.

2. Ratification Memo

3. BOCC Meeting/Workshop Minutes:

a. March 19, 2024, Regular BOCC Meeting

4. Approval of Bid Award for the construction of the Barack Obama Roundabout

5. Approval of CR 274 Ben Bostick Road Agreement
6. Appointment of Substitute Medical Examiner for District II of the State of Florida and Gadsden County
7. Approval and Signatures for Satisfaction of Special Assessment Lien
8. Approval of the Judicial Inquiry System (JIS) Inter-Agency Agreement provided through the Office of the State Courts Administrator (OSCA)
9. Approval to Submit Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Application to Purchase and Install Generator at the Robertsville Fire Station
10. Approval to Submit Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Application to Purchase and Install Generator at the EMS Facility (Joe Adam Road Location)
11. Approval to Submit Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Application to Purchase and Install Generator at the Special Needs Shelter (Hospital Location)
12. Approval of Emergency Operation Center Construction
- 12a. Approval for the Finance Office to Process Payment for Keshia's Kitchen
- 12b. Approval of the Big Bend Community Based Care, Inc. d/b/a NWF Health Network Business Agreement – Opioid Settlement

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

5. Approval of CR 274 Ben Bostick Road Agreement

Mr. Dixon stated they got money to resurface and widen Ben Bostick Road. The project is 1.7 million dollars and it was funded and ready to go.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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Chair Green read aloud the above statement.

Cynthia Reese-Donaldson, 1066 Harbin Road Quincy, FL 32351

Ms. Donaldson stated her concerns are about the harassment on her neighbors regarding H&V Farms. On Sunday, there was an event going on, but they had a lot of residents on Watson Road that were harassing the people coming to the event. She stated there was no noise and she does not hear the music on her property. If she could not hear the noise, she knew the people on Watson Road could not hear it. She felt that the Gadsden County Police Department should have gone and talked to that resident that was out there harassing the people.

Commissioner Hinson asked if the Sheriff was informed about this issue.

Colonel Collins with the Sheriff's Office appeared and stated his responsibility on Sunday was site safety. He echoed Ms. Donaldson's sentiments and her comments, however, her facts were not correct. When they heard that there was an incident, allegedly by a neighbor with a gun, not only did they dispatch a deputy there, Deputy Manny DeLeon was the first one on scene, Deputy Stacey Yeomans was the second, and Colonel Collins also responded. No one they spoke to could identify anybody that had a gun. He stated this incident was still under investigation.

Chair Green stated he enjoyed the event and he walked someone to their car who was parked way in the back and he could not really hear the music.

Sarlentia Holt, 931 Watson Road

Ms. Holt appeared before the Board and stated she was part owner of H&V Farms. She stated she wanted to attest to what Colonel Collins was saying but also about the hatred that they have received since owning the property. She stated there was a Facebook post about there being a Watson Road war. It was becoming a personal attack against them. She stated they deserved to be on Watson Road.

Christopher Holt, 385 Hogan Lane

Mr. Holt appeared and stated he was part owner of H&V Farms. He stated he has received death threats and the residents on Watson Road go and take pictures on his property. He asked the County Administrator and the Commissioners to have a conversation with these residents. He stated they were dealing with a hatred issue.

Chair Green stated this was more of a law enforcement matter. They want to make sure that all of their citizens were safe. There is an investigation that is ongoing now, but he was hoping that everything that Mr. Holt has shared has already been given to law enforcement as well.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

13. Approval of Resolution 2024-009 and Budget Amendments for FY 2023-2024

Mr. Dixon presented above item and Ms. Daniels explained the amendments made.

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

14. Approval of the Florida Department of Commerce Agreement HL-222 Providing the County with State Funding for the Design and Construction of a Boys and Girls Club

Mr. Dixon presented the above item.

Commissioner Simpkins stated they all need to come to table. She was not sure about setting up a design for somewhere that has not been agreed upon.

Chair Green asked if there was a backup plan location wise and if that same design would be able to fit in about location if the City of Quincy does not agree with the location at MLK tracks.

Mr. Dixon stated it was a great location. There were concerns about the overflow of children and the traffic on MLK. They do have a backup location. They were going to engage with the city and look at the design.

Commissioner Simpkins stated they all need to come to the table. They were under the assumption that this has been agreed upon. She stated she has been requesting a workshop as it related to the Boys & Girls Club. She has no idea what the backup location is.

Mr. Dixon stated they already set the meeting with the Boys & Girls Club. He was not stuck on a location. If the City of Quincy does not agree with the location, he will take it back to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Holt asked if the design was portable. Mr. Dixon stated they have not done the design yet. Commissioner Holt stated they need to go ahead and approve this and then they can look at the design.

Chair Green stated he would like to table this to have a meeting with the City of Quincy first.

Mr. Elias stated they have more questions than answers; there needs to be some land attached because it should already be identified. This item should be tabled.

COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS ITEM AND HAVE A WORKSHOP FIRST AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

CLERK OF COURT

No updates

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

No updates

COUNTY ATTORNEY

No updates

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson asked for an update on summer youth employment. Dr. Burroughs appeared and stated everything was going as planned and they have over 250 slots for businesses.

Commissioner Hinson stated they need to start focusing on budget workshops.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION FOR ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY TO HAVE ANNUAL BIZ CRAWL AND CHAIR GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, District 3

Commissioner NeSmith thanked the County Administrator for the update on Providence Road and asked to share it.

Mr. Young appeared and stated Providence Road was in the design phase. It will come back to the Board once done to get into construction.

Commissioner NeSmith asked about Hardaway Highway and Mr. Young stated it should be 100% designed in 30 days.

Commissioner NeSmith asked about bulky item pickup for district 3 and Mr. Young stated they started Monday and will start with district 3 on Thursday.

Commissioner NeSmith mentioned the summer youth program and stated he had seen middle schoolers learning to code in Michigan.

Commissioner NeSmith asked the County Administrator if they knew exactly what appropriations they received from the state. Mr. Dixon stated it was still open; June 1 is the veto date.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR CHARLIE HARRIS AND CHAIR GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Holt mentioned to the County Administrator about the community parks that have requests to get repairs done and asked for them to get something done with it.

Commissioner Holt asked the County Attorney to bring back the annexation state statute that gives guidance on when cities annex.

Commissioner Holt mentioned an ordinance on getting invoices from the Clerk's office; wanted to see if it could be tightened up. She stated they need to be consistent with paying bills.

Commissioner Holt stated the Treasure Hunt is on May 4 starting at the Courthouse.

Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, Vice-Chair, District 2

Commissioner Simpkins thanked the ladies at the library; showing importance of literacy.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned a safe streets and roads grant out by the Department of Transportation and stated they could benefit from that.

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION TO GIVE HAVANA FIRE \$35,000 TO PURCHASE EQUIPMENT NEEDED TO INCREASE THEIR ISO RATINGS AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 2-3 AND THE MOTION FAILED. COMMISSIONER HOLT, COMMISSIONER NESMITH, AND CHAIR GREEN OPPOSED.

Commissioner Simpkins stated that some of the Commissioners mentioned that money was not the reason for not approving the Havana Fire Contract, but that showed it was the reason. It is sad that their citizens have to raise funds for something that the County could assist with.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, Chair, District 5

Chair Green thanked Mr. Young for the signs that were put on Lakeview Road. They have been bringing to his attention that the signs need to be larger.

Chair Green mentioned ditch maintenance and asked if there was a schedule. Mr. Young stated they have a schedule for dirt roads but not paved roads. They only have one cleaning machine for ditches on paved roads.

Chair Green thanked the people who came out to the Bass Tournament.

Chair Green mentioned that the next community meeting is on May 6 and he also mentioned that the district 5 bulky item pickup is on April 29- May 2.

Chair Green mentioned making amendments to ordinances and stated to not forget that so they could go ahead and make any necessary changes. Commissioner NeSmith stated all of the ordinances need to be reviewed.

Commissioner Hinson stated the Gadsden County Extension Office is having a plant sale on April 20, 10-2 p.m.

Chair Green provided a greenlight moment:

“When someone speaks against you, you speak well of them. When you are mistreated, you treat them well. Pray evil with good, and God will fight your battles.”

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:14 PM.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**Ronterious Green, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON APRIL 16, 2024 AT 4:00 P.M.,
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Ronterious Green, Chairman, District 5
Alonzetta Simpkins, Vice-Chair, District 2
Eric Hinson, District 1, Appeared through Zoom
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
Brenda Holt, District 4
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order, Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Green called the workshop to order at 4 p.m. Chair Green led into the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag and the Invocation.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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Chair Green read aloud the above statement.

General Business

1. Discussion and direction regarding the Construction of the Emergency Operations Center

Mr. Dixon presented the above item.

Ms. Whaley appeared before the Board and stated the purpose of this workshop was to present to them the final design of the EOC.

Joel Sampson, Architect, appeared before the Board. He stated that the EOC design was submitted in December and FDEM approved it.

Commissioner NeSmith stated he heard Mr. Sampson state it was hurricane rated and mentioned there are five categories. Commissioner NeSmith stated he wanted this to be built for the future.

Commissioner Holt asked about outside ventilation going into the building. Mr. Sampson stated the buildings are all required to have outside air, those are systems that are protected. There is a dedicated air unit towards the top.

Mr. Dixon stated he did not think they thought enough about I.T. That was something to consider and they might need to entertain that. Commissioner Holt stated she spoke with Kimbrew and wanted to make sure they are where they need to be on the I.T. part.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if they have the space for I.T. Mr. Dixon stated they have a room dedicated to I.T. but he did not think the thought was the county's I.T.

Chair Green stated they need to consider some adequate space at some point for a consolidated dispatch center.

Motion to Adjourn

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, VICE-CHAIR SIMPKINS
DECLARED THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED AT 4:26 PM.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**Ronterious Green, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE GADSDEN COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON MAY 7, 2024 AT 6:00
PM, THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

Present: Ronterious Green, Chair, District 5
Alonzetta Simpkins, Vice-Chair, District 2
Eric Hinson, District 1
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
Brenda Holt, District 4
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Green called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and Pastor Hannah provided the Invocation. Chair Green then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

Commissioner Holt appeared at 6:03 p.m.

Amendments and Approval of Agenda

Mr. Dixon stated Agenda item 1 needed to be pulled as Mr. Harris was under the weather. He asked to add Item 13a-Approval of the Consulting Agreement for Generation Changers International, LLC. to be placed under General Business.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE.

Commissioner NeSmith arrived at 6:05 pm.

Commissioner Hinson asked how Item 13a would impact the General Fund. Chair Green asked if he would like to address his questions regarding an item when they came to it on the agenda.

Commissioner Holt stated item 13a needed to be discussed today.

Chair Green stated this was a program the County Judge was doing as a resource for the youth. They could approve the agenda and when they come to that item, it could be discussed at that time.

COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.

Awards, Presentations and Appearances

1. ~~Recognition of Charlie Harris~~

Item was pulled; Mr. Harris was not available.

CONSENT

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Simpkins asked to pull for discussion item 4 and had a question concerning item 7. Chair Green asked if she would like to ask her question concerning item 7 now. She asked if funds from that item would come from the Seniors budget and Mr. Dixon explained that was in the budget for the Gretna Seniors.

Commissioner Hinson asked to pull item 11.

CHAIR GREEN CALLED FOR THE VOTE. (NO SECOND WAS MADE.) THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS AMENDED.

2. **Ratification Memo**
3. **BOCC Meeting/Workshop Minutes:**
 - a. **April 2, 2024, Regular Meeting**
4. ~~**Approval of a 10-year Sublease Agreement for 680 Maple Street, Chattahoochee, FL – North Florida Rural Health Corp**~~
Item pulled for discussion.
5. **Approval of the Florida Department of Commerce Agreement #P0478 Providing the County with State Funding for the reassessment and update of the Gadsden County Economic Development Plan**
6. **Approval of Clinical Rotation Agreement with RC Health Services**
7. **Approval of the City of Gretna Interlocal Agreement for Human Services**
8. **Approval to Submit Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Application to Purchase and Install Generator at the Special Needs Shelter (Hospital Location)**
9. **Approval to Submit Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Application to Purchase and Install Generator at the Robertsville Fire Station**
10. **Approval to Submit Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Application to Purchase and Install Generator at the EMS Facility (Joe Adam Road Location)**
11. ~~**Approval of Marketing Funds for Crappie Tournament on Lake Talquin**~~
Item pulled for discussion.

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

4. Approval of a 10-year Sublease Agreement for 680 Maple Street, Chattahoochee, FL – North Florida Rural Health Corp

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was for approval of a sublease with North Florida Rural Health Corp. The Board offered them a 10-year lease years ago and DMS deemed they had to have a direct relationship with them early on. They had to have a different agreement and now DMS decided there did not need to be an agreement with them, the Board needed to have an agreement with them.

Mr. Knowles explained it went back and forth a few times and since the State was the owner of the building, it was sent to them and got different feedback and this was the lease that was acceptable for the sublessee. Mr. Knowles stated they settled on a 10-year lease instead of the 50-year lease that was originally proposed. He said Mr. T. J. Lewis had conversations in December with the Division of State Land and may could shed more light if there were more questions.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if the County owned the building and the State owned the land. Mr. Knowles stated he believed the State owned the dirt and the County built the building, because they were fixing the building. Mr. Dixon explained the building was built by the State, but just like the health departments and some buildings, at some point they turned the buildings over to the county.

Commissioner Simpkins asked why the lease was not prepared by the County Attorney. Mr. Knowles explained the sublease agreement was prepared by Mr. Lewis in conjunction with TIIFF.

Mr. Knowles stated he reviewed the lease and was ok with it. Commissioner Simpkins asked if he normally prepared leases and he stated he did normally prepare them.

Chair Green asked if everything was fine.

Mr. Knowles stated he thought they should change the title; but that was why they have a scrivener's error in Section 14.

Commissioner Simpkins asked about the request of North Florida Rural Health for the \$1 Million and Mr. Dixon stated one had nothing to do with the other.

Commissioner NeSmith asked about title change that the attorney mentioned and he explained.

Commissioner Hinson stated he heard a lot of "I don't think" and "I don't know"; felt they need to table this and talk more about it and then move forward once they received all the answers to the questions.

Commissioner Holt stated the building belonged to the State of FL and the land belonged to the state. After the hurricane came through and she was Chair, she called the State and asked

to use the facility for healthcare and to get medical help in there. They agreed and said they did not need to have a sublease because at that time only the senior citizens were there.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if they normally do 10-year leases.

Mr. Knowles stated 10 years was what the Board was comfortable with 2 years ago.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISIOENR NESMITH AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

11. Approval of Marketing Funds for Crappie Tournament on Lake Talquin

Mr. Dixon presented the above item and stated he did not believe this should have come before the board as this was a TDC item and they had approved it. The clerk stated it should come before the board. The money has been expended and the crappie tournament was a great success. He said there were hundreds and hundreds of people and hundreds and hundreds of boaters fishing, the \$5000 fish was still out there. He said it was a great tournament and they hope to do more. This project seeks ratification of payment of the bill of \$24,000.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND.

He asked if they skipped Item 7 and Chair Green stated the question was answered.

Commissioner Hinson stated he had heartburn regarding this. They were paying \$24,000 for advertising and a motion made for approval before they finish reading the item. Then, talking about the fire department asking for \$25,000 “all hell breaks loose”. The deal is they quickly, before finish reading the statement and have a motion and second, they have had four or five meetings there about the fire departments with each meeting lasting more than 3 hours. The fire department asked for an extra \$25,000 to support them. When asking to throw a party, they are quick to approve but to protect the people, “to hell with you”. When Havana, Midway, Gretna, Greensboro, Chattahoochee all asked for an extra \$25,000 to protect their fire station, they said no. He said he did not mind having parties and have a good time, but they needed to support the infrastructure. He wished they could be as fast for the municipalities and hoped they could be as generous toward infrastructure as they were toward parties. He said \$24,000 to market an event was unheard of.

Chair Green asked if he knew what they had invested in the county as a whole in the fire services.

Chair Green asked they stay on topic and wanted to be clear funding for this item was coming from TDC and was budgeted.

Commissioner Hinson asked if they had a fire tax budget and Mr. Dixon stated there was no fire tax. Commissioner Hinson asked the reason the Clerk added this item; Chair Green stated “there is a lot of heartburn the Clerk has that comes from this. We deal with some things that other boards do not deal with when it comes down to the Clerk; so that’s not a question or

situation that we should deal with now since the Clerk is not present to answer that question or defend”.

CHAIR GREEN CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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.org 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 via Zoom using the credentials on the County’s website. The Board’s meetings are also broadcast live on the Board’s Facebook page.

Chair Green read aloud the above statement.

Tony Hannah, P.O. Box 481 Quincy, Florida

Mr. Hannah appeared before the Board and wanted to introduce himself. He was the new Executive Director of the PAMS Program and would be appearing periodically with reports to the Board.

Mike Watson, 2793 Sycamore Road

Mr. Watson appeared and stated he was taking a chance appearing before the board because of what happened a couple of months ago. Information he received from his supervisor was he might be without a job if he did come back. He said he still wanted to complain about Sycamore Road because it was getting worse. After each heavy rain, the road was puckering. He was informed if he kept coming and complaining, the County would reduce or stop purchases from his employer, Quincy Auto Parts, a/k/a Bumper to Bumper. He said he took that personally. He stated on February 24th, he was told by his manager of Bumper to Bumper (Quincy Auto Parts) “that the Public Works Department of Gadsden County was told to possibly reduce the purchase of parts from Quincy Auto Parts...” He said he talked to his supervisor and asked who said that and he said it was Curtis Young, someone told him to get that message across.

Chair Green stated they did not operate like that and he was a citizen of the County and has every opportunity to come to meetings to speak as a citizen. He said they should have a conversation with his boss because that should not have anything to do with him coming to the meetings as a citizen. He further stated they could not have that conversation now because he needed to file a complaint and encouraged him to speak with the County Attorney.

Commissioner NeSmith stated Mr. Watson shared that information with him some time ago and he asked him to provide the name. Mr. Watson said he just did. He added this was not something the Board tolerated.

Commissioner Holt stated it was his right to come to meetings and believed between the Administrator and the Attorney they could get to the bottom of it. Mr. Watson said he hoped so, it had him upset and was the reason he missed the last two meetings.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

12. Approval of the Florida Department of Commerce Agreement HL-222 Providing the County with State Funding for the Design and Construction of a Boys and Girls Club

Mr. Dixon presented the above item and said it was for board approval of the Florida Dept of Commerce agreement HL – 222 providing the county with \$3,618,705 in State funding for the design and construction of a Boys and Girls Club. He added board directed them to work with the City of Quincy and they were provided with a letter from Rob Nixon, City Manager, confirming that the April 23rd meeting the City Commission approved the dedication of property and creation of the long-term lease agreement with the Board of County Commissioners for construction of the Big Bend Boys and Girls Club facility on the MLK track property in Quincy. He said the terms will grant the county full developmental control of the property for 30 years at the rate of \$1.00 per year. He said there were some stipulations, they asked that the track be put back and wanted a swimming pool. He added he thought they were opposed to it short of finding the money and he relayed that to them. He said if they accepted the money that could begin and the design and also seek other dollars to marry with this opportunity.

Commissioner Hinson asked if they planned on leasing the building and land; he thought it was best to purchase and not put three or four million dollars into something they did not own.

Mr. Dixon stated in his governmental background the long-term lease was as good as ownership. He added the state would not allow you to build on anything except without long-term lease.

Commissioner NeSmith stated he was in favor of accepting these funds and moving forward with this project.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER NESMITH AND SECOND BY CHAIR GREEN, THE BOARD VOTED FOR OPTION 1 AND THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

13. Board Direction Regarding Reimbursement for Delinquency Fees from Department of Management Services, Division of Retirement

Mr. Dixon presented the above item and stated it was for board direction regarding reimbursement for delinquency fees from the Department of Management Services, Division of Retirement. He added this was not a simple issue and explained Commissioner Hinson and Commissioner Holt were in the FRS system as dual capacities. Both left the system at some point and usually the leaving entity they separate from would notify FRS and FRS would then do what they needed to do. The entity was not notified of those 2 commissioners were leaving the system. That accumulated fees in the FRS System. For one commissioner it was 10 years

old and less for the other Commissioner. The problem was when they started negotiating with FRS about the fees and whether or not notice was given, the Clerk's office paid \$162,000 of their own accord; it took away the strategy according to Ms. Maas. He stated to "the Clerk's folks 'I don't think you have that authority to do that'. You ride us about \$300 in a cake, yet, of your own you go and spend \$162,000 without the Board's approval". He said they went back and forth and a letter came in from FRS about having a hearing if they wanted to. He added for the most part it was already done. He said to the Clerk they did not have the authority to do this and if they did it would have to come to the board; it would have to come to the board at some point. You are in the position that it has been done, there are delinquency fees and they now have the obligation of verifying or approving what the Clerk has done and paying \$82,263.43. He said the attorney might have a different look but that was his understanding.

Mr. Knowles stated Commissioners Hinson and Holt were both dually employed through the school system and the board of county commissioners. He said you are able to report yourself pursuant to statute in FRS, as either an employee of the school board, which had a certain percentage of contribution that those folks get, the regular class, about 4 ½%, then there is the County-elected officer class, about 44.23%. Those are current numbers and they fluctuate up and down. Once the two employees left the employ of the school board, they needed to notify the County so the County could notify FRS of the change and the County could start making the additional contribution. When FRS audited last year, they discovered there was an underpayment in amount of \$165,000 and they assessed a delinquency amount of \$82,263.43 and accruing penalties at 1% on the unpaid amount. He was told the Clerk's Office paid to stop the bleeding. In December 2023, Ms. Mass contacted the attorney and a portion of the fee had already been paid, to set up a meeting with FRS, they canceled that, set up another meeting on another day. They gave the option for an informal or formal hearing and he did not think even if they had availed themselves of that, that they would have had a colorful claim and that was due to 121.71(6), F.S. that stated:

"If a member is reported under an incorrect membership class and the amount of contributions reported and remitted is less than the amount required, the employer shall owe the difference, plus the delinquent fee of 1 percent for each calendar month or part thereof that the contributions should have been paid. The delinquent assessment may not be waived. If the contributions reported and remitted are more than the amount required, the employer shall receive a credit to be applied against future contributions owed."

He said for each employee they had for whatever time period it was, it was 1 percent for each calendar month of that timeframe listed in that letter. He said the key part of 121.71(6), F.S. was **"The delinquent assessment may not be waived"**. He said they have to pay it; they were essentially still bleeding by not paying the \$85,000. He said they were the ones responsible for the payment of this pursuant to statute.

Chair Green said technically, they had to pay the bill. Mr. Dixon said they had to pay it. Chair Green said he understood it should have come to the Board before being paid. Mr. Dixon said it was an operational question.

Commissioner Holt stated in 2012 they were notified by her and was not a concern. The concern was that FRS could not find their records. She said when she left the school system, not only was she making sure she notified them, she wanted to make sure her retirement was correct. She said she spoke with FRS on that day and told them the problem was they could not find their paperwork. She said it took them a long time to find their error. The other thing was the Clerk did not have the right to pay this without notifying the Board. Their HR person should have had the opportunity to negotiate with FRS.

Chair Green said this was an argument they did not necessarily have to have, he did think, in not just this situation, there is a lot of things they did need to have some conversation with the Clerk and that department as a whole across the board so they could all be on the same page when it comes down to scenarios such as this and many others. He stated they did not have to prolong the time on this because it has to be taken care of.

Commissioner Simpkins said she wanted to be clear, she saw emails from the Clerk, and thought they all were on the emails, regarding this back to September. There has been requests for direction in all of that from the Clerk. There was some back and forth with Ms. Maas and Clerk's office. However, when they take a look at the portion regarding the delinquency piece, the request for the letter was made by the Clerk's Office and was never done on their end. Also, the Clerk did request and ask in September, made the Board aware of this particular fee and said he needed assistance and that was on October 24th. There was communication and she agreed it has to be taken care of. She wanted to make it clear he had been communicating.

Mr. Dixon stated they had been back and forth with the Clerk's Office about whose job this is. That is what this point is; it's no different than the TDC just now. He did not pay it, he thought it ought to come before the Board, whether it should have or should not have. This should have and what we wanted was the opportunity to do was to talk to FRS about it. If it did not mean a dime extra. The problem about the delinquency fees came out later. It's been going on for 10 years, another month wasn't going to kill. We were working this situation; it may have come back just the way if was. He said his contention to the Board and to them, it was the Board's obligation to pay this bill, not the Clerk. He had the ability to write a \$160,000 without Board approval, then that was a different set of worms.

Chair Green said, as he had stated, they needed to move to take care of this and need to have that conversation as needed on different things as it relates to payment, who they do what from that particular office, but need to move this forward.

Commissioner NeSmith said as stated, asked if he heard the Administrator say they could ask for a hearing but the other side was the penalty continues to accrue.

Mr. Dixon said the opportunity had passed.

Mr. Knowles said to answer his question, yes, the penalty would have continued to accrue while that process, informal or formal, (inaudible).

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. BEFORE THE VOTE, COMMISSIOENR HINSON HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner Hinson asked if he and Commissioner Holt should abstain from voting. Mr. Knowles stated he did not believe they were getting any gain from this; it was contributions the County should have made to FRS. They have already received the benefit, but he would defer to someone from HR to explain better than he could. He said this was just “catch-up” in a sense, not like it was money coming into their account. He did say, it might be advisable for them to abstain because it could be construed as a benefit to them, however since he did not think they were getting the direct payment of that to themselves, there should not be a problem.

Commissioner Holt stated she spoke with them earlier and they said that rate was paid lower into the pool. That money never comes to the person, to them. They pay into the pool just like paying into Social Security except they do not get anything back from it. The County paid that money in, not the individual.

Mr. Dixon said the pool gets the money for everyone they have in it.

Mr. Knowles said he just wanted to make sure that legally he gave them the advice that someone could construe that and did not want them to say it was not said that they could realistically recuse themselves from voting on this matter if they did not feel comfortable. Fill out the appropriate form and state why they abstained for having a conflict.

Commissioner NeSmith had questions and it was convoluted. He said he had been trying to follow this. He said they had two commissioners that was working two jobs; those two commissioners separated from the school district; it was up to the Board of County Commissioners to notify FRS.

Mr. Knowles said no. It was up to the commissioner to notify the Board to change the code from regular class to elected official, who would then notify the Plan Administrator of that. He added if Commissioner Nesmith was in the same boat, how would the County know that he left the employment of a third party.

Commissioner NeSmith said was it because those two employees left the school district, the School Board does not notify anyone that they have separated?

Mr. Knowles said the duty was on the employer once they are notified by the employee. So, it would be on him to notify the County or HR that he had left the school board and now needed to be in the Elected Official category. You would have received a letter. Commissioner Holt said she sent in her response; you would have gotten a letter from FRS stating he was no longer dually employed, no longer under the regular class, you are now in the Elected Officer Class; you need to alert your agency to this fact and they need to change that.

Commissioner NeSmith said if Commissioner Holt did notify FRS, did it matter that Commissioner Holt had evidence that she notified them then or is it too late?

Mr. Knowles said it was too late because the time to request a hearing has passed.

CHAIR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. COMMISSIONER HINSON ASKED TO RECUSE HIMSELF FROM THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE OPTION 1.

13a. Approval of the Consulting Agreement for Generation Changers International, LLC

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was for approval of the Consulting Agreement with Generation Changers International, LLC appointing Mr. Kent Osbourne as the keynote speaker for the Gadsden County Youth Resource Fair scheduled for May 18, 2024 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. He added Judge Garner had requested Mr. Osbourne to come and his fee is \$3,000 to participate. She asked the Board to agree to pay.

Chair Green asked if there were other people willing to make contributions and thought the amount was steep from where the speaker was coming from which was Georgia.

Commissioner Hinson said he did not mind donating or raising money for this event.

Chair Green said he knew time was of the essence as this event would take place in a couple of weeks and there would not be a whole lot of time. He said \$3,000 to invest in the youth, he did not have a problem, was hoping there would be others willing to donate.

Commissioner Holt stated \$3,000 was nothing with what Judge Garner puts up with in the Courtroom with the young people.

Commissioner Simpkins stated Judge Garner was funding this herself and they need to pay the \$3,000. They pay for entertainers.

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER NESMITH HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner NeSmith asked what the line item was and it was explained it was the Public Purpose Ordinance line-item number.

THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

14. Clerk of Court

There was nothing to report.

15. County Administrator

Mr. Dixon stated Public Works and EMS are requesting Proclamations; May 19th – 25th is Public Works and EMS Week.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Mr. Dixon announced the Youth Resource Fair on May 18th and the first Budget Workshop will be on May 23rd at 4 p.m. He asked if that date would work with Commissioner Simpkins.

He recognized Shawanna Moyer as the new Parks and Recreation Director.

Ms. Moya appeared before the Board and introduced herself.

16. County Attorney

Mr. Knowles stated Commissioner Holt had asked about public roads and the annexations, he did research regarding it. He directed the Board to Florida Statutes 335.0415, Public Road Jurisdiction and Transfer Process and read it aloud.

He said they were looking, in conjunction with the Clerk, at the Ordinance regarding Special Purpose and what the purpose of certain governmental funds expenditures could be. He said the Clerk has presented some information; he and Mrs. Bradley was looking at information and they will be bringing some things back to the Board, either via email or as an agenda item if it warrants that to explain where they were in that process.

Commissioner Holt asked what it would take to challenge on the roads. She asked him to see if there were any challenges they may be able to apply. Mr. Knowles said there was an issue and he will send it to her, there was an AG opinion from 1996 regarding Annexation and inclusion of Public Roads and dealt with a similar issue involving Chapter 193, the Municipal Annexation and Contraction Act and that came to the same conclusion.

17. Discussion Items by Commissioners

Commissioner Eric F. Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson congratulated former Commissioner Eugene Lamb as he was inducted into Hall of Fame at Dillard University in Louisiana.

Commissioner Kimblin E. NeSmith, J.D., District 3

Commissioner NeSmith stated Happy Nurses Week and Teachers Appreciation Week to all nurses and teachers.

He asked the County Administrator for an update for Lincoln Drive repairs. Mr. Dixon stated it was an engineering thing and would get him an update tomorrow.

He said there was a goal and he had been very vocal about trying to reach the \$100 Million revenue stream. He asked in preparation of the Budget workshop; would he be able to present to the Board the various opportunities to enhance the revenue. He asked if there were different revenues to the County that they were currently not accessing so additional services could be provided to the constituents.

Mr. Dixon said there are additional resources, some require a vote or referendum, others require a vote of the board.

He asked how they were coming on stripping, there are several roads that need attention.

Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt said to the Attorney stated trying to find way to improve the flow of invoices paid from the Commission to the clerk. She said she talked with some of the ladies and said there was a calendar, invoices turned in by this date, they are paid by that date. She asked that be placed on their web page so contractors dealing with the County now could see when

they provide a service to the County, they would know when they should get paid. She said it could not be haphazard, what made one invoice getting paid and the next not? If they could give them a type of process. Did they need to write the process? She said she knew the Clerk's Office was under the State, was responsible for certain things. She said they could work all they wanted to get businesses in but if they did not pay the contractors and people on time, there would be a problem. That is why it was so irritating they paid FRS. She said she was not criticizing; she was trying to find a fix. She said there was something that they should be able to do, was there an Ordinance they needed to write? She said there should be something that stated if they sent something over to be paid, they would do "A", "B", "C", "D", "E" and they did do well on two invoices she asked for but was trying to find something they could do because it was hurting the County's credibility.

Mr. Knowles said he did not pretend to speak for the Clerk, he thought it might be good for them to have a workshop where they could discuss the creation of a policy. He said if there was a prompt payment act where if you do not pay by a certain time on different types of invoices, then there are penalties. So, they certainly should be cognizant of that because there are penalties after 30 days for some of those. He felt there should be a workshop with Clerk to understand when things need to come in. He added when he first started his firm had an issue and was not accustomed to the County's the billing and got with Ms. Porter or Ms. Sanford and found out when invoices needed to be in to be processed. He said it would be helpful from a legal perspective because he did not want them running afoul of the prompt payment act and those penalties. Also to have something to be able to explain to the vendors, based on dialogue with the Clerk's Office and the Board, as elected officials and a separate constitutional, as to when things need to be submitted and when they can anticipate to be paid. He added, secondarily, and he has stressed this before, there is more than just a ministerial function of the Clerk. There will be payments that will be questioned and their option is frankly, to deal with it or take him to Court. He wanted to make sure he was clear about that. He said if there is a particular invoice that the Board believes should be paid and it was not paid or is not paid, then the direction would need to be to him, to initiate a declaratory action within the Circuit Court to ascertain whether or not that was a properly payable expense and whether or not the Clerk has the ability to refuse it. That was up to the Board, not him. He felt the first step was to get the process in writing, understand when things need to come in and also the process for it to come into the County; who it gets submitted to, who it goes to once it comes to the County; that person has a certain period of time to send it to the Finance Office. They receive it by a certain date, they issue a check and that check gets mailed out. He said some things was beyond their control such as the mail. He did agree there could be a process that they put in place, absent certain checks and balances that the Clerk has as the Comptroller and Chief Accountant and Custodian of funds, whereby everyone could understand and know what the process was. But they have to have that workshop and have that dialogue and understand that and then present that to the vendor.

Commissioner Holt said she called over there and had a conversation about two different invoices. What she was looking for was to have before that workshop, the information, State statutes, that helps them deal with the Clerk and the Clerk deal with them. That way, they will know how each affects the other legally. If they end up going to Court, it was better to have that information than not.

Chair Green added that lots of times they were dealing with small businesses who really need to be paid. He added as a small business owner, he knew how important it was to get the money.

Commissioner Holt stated there have been other Constitutionals that have had a problem.

She added she wanted to have a workshop regarding the internet cafes as to whether they were legal or not.

She stated the treasure hunt was great. There were people that came from all over.

She also asked for a list of the road projects, striping, paving, etc.

Chair Green said regarding the treasure hunt, they needed to get the list of winners so they could be acknowledged in the next meeting.

Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, Vice-Chair, District 2

Commissioner Simpkins thanked Ms. Alma Venisee for collaborating and presenting with her at the 'Are You Ready for a Grant' workshop and it was a success.

She mentioned the blinking light on the curve of Shady Rest Road has been out for a while.

She said she has received some concerns from citizens on Jameson Road and was not something they could address overnight, but a conversation needs to happen with the one-way in and one-way out. She said if they recall, there have been a couple of emergencies, one with the officer that was shot in that area and for hours the people were not able to get out because of that.

She said she did not know where they were at with Scott Town Park on Charlie Harris Loop and asked, they take a look at that.

She mentioned the email from the Clerk regarding the utilities and asked the attorney if he would follow up.

Mr. Knowles stated he contacted Mr. Nixon and Mr. Nixon requested the Board allow him, or his company, two years to cover the arrearage. He informed him that would be a contract and would need to be brought before the Board for approval. He stated he was trying to get a copy of the lease agreement so he could ascertain when the property was occupied and when it was the responsibility of the landlord to pay the utilities and when it became the responsibility of the tenant. Mr. Meeks went to Mr. Hutley and obtained a copy of the lease. It appears as though that started in October 2022, or that's when the lease is dated. They need to ascertain from that period forward what those amounts are and from that period back what those amounts are. Then with the Board's permission, send out demand letters requesting that those amounts be paid. If there are arrangements that need to be made, then those individuals or their respective corporate entities, could come to the Board and request whatever relief they are trying to effectuate. In the meantime, he wanted to make sure it was legal and they could actually do that. He said he had not had that issue come up where a government is owed money in this manner. He further stated now that they had the appropriate information, they

could draft the appropriate letters and move forward with demanding the receipt of the \$13,000.

Commissioner Simpkins said she did not know if the Clerk was giving them the update or if he needed anything additional.

Mr. Knowles said Mr. Meeks went to Mr. Hutley's office earlier in the day to obtain the lease and gave them his attorney's name. He said he will reach out to him the following day and will continue to update the Board as they go through the process. He hoped by the next meeting they will have an agenda item for discussion and action to discuss a path forward.

She said she made a request and Mr. Knowles sent her over and she asked if HR trumped Legal. He asked if she was talking about the termination letter. She said yes.

Mr. Knowles stated it was his position Commissioners could ask for any document they want. He said he stood by that, whether it was Commissioner Hinson asking for FCI, Commissioner Holt, herself, Commissioner NeSmith or Commissioner Green, any form of commissioners, since he has been that chair, is that documents should be provided to Commissioners that is in Statute. That was his legal opinion. He said he was not in charge of any staff so he could not direct Staff to do something or not do something and he was not in possession of the record that she sought. He believed anything that any of them, anyone on the dais, if they asked for a document and it was not privileged in some way such as medical records, Social Security number, etc., he believed they should receive it. He said that was his position. He did not want to say HR trumps legal, legal trumps HR, he just believed as Commissioners, and pursuant to Statute, they were allowed to have documents that are non-privileged documents and if they request a document, they should receive it. He further stated if in the commissioner requested a document, they should receive that it was not unique to her or anyone else.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, Chair, District 5

Chair Green thanked Commissioner Simpkins and Commissioner Holt for serving the communities very well with events over the weekend.

He thanked Deputy Peterson and said he was very key and responsible for capturing the young man that was on the prowl that committed a murder the past week and was very integral in making that happen. He wanted to publicly thank him again for his efforts.

He requested a motion to recognize Pat Durden.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON FOR RECOGNITION OF PAT DURDEN, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE MOTION.

He said he also had a request for Dr. Henry Grant for being selected a 2024 inductee to the Florida 4-H Hall of Fame. He said the ceremony will take place on August 1st.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER NESMITH FOR RECOGNITION OF DR. HENRY GRANT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE MOTION.

He then congratulated all of the graduating college students.

Commissioner Holt said she wanted to thank the Black History group, they did a lot of research and worked hard.

Commissioner Simpkins wanted to say the infomercial regarding the fire fighters was very nice and did not know who was responsible. Mr. Dixon stated he was.

Commissioner Hinson asked to recognize the Quincy Rotary Club for the Trap Tournament that was held at the Coonbottom Gun Club. The match was their annual fundraiser for the North Florida Rotary Youth Camp, which provides a summer camp experience for disabled and special needs children and they were able to raise over \$27,000.

He also thanked the Alpha Fraternity for feeding the teachers at Crossroads Academy that morning for Teacher Appreciation Week. He said that One Gadsden Foundation along with School Board member Cathy Johnson will be feeding the teachers at the Havana Magnet School and will have lunch at the Gadsden County High School Friday.

Chair Green mentioned the first budget workshop was scheduled for May 24th starting at 4:00 pm but asked they keep in mind that was also graduation for Gadsden County students.

Commissioner Hinson said the School Board has received \$76 Million for a new school and they need to find a way to bring in a convention center.

Motion to Adjourn

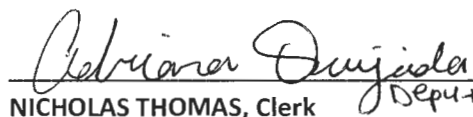
**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN
DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:49 PM.**

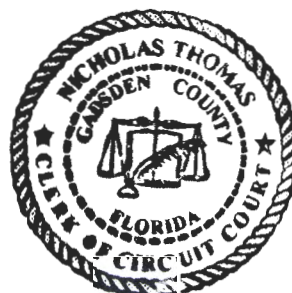
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA



**RONTERIOUS GREEN, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:


NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk Deputy Clerk



**AT AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY ON MAY 11, 2024 AT 9:00 AM, THE
FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Ronterious Green, Chair, District 5
Alonzetta Simpkins, Vice-Chair, District 2
Eric Hinson, District 1 - Absent
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
Brenda Holt, District 4 - Absent
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order

1. Chair Green called the meeting to order at 9:04 am and said they were present for the emergency meeting as it related to the storm that took place the day before and several constituents were impacted by said storm and wanted to make sure necessary things were in order to be able to be prepared to assist in any way possible.

Mr. Dixon introduced above item and Ms. Tashonda Whaley, Emergency Management Director, appeared before the Board.

Ms. Whaley appeared before the board and the Governor had signed a State of Emergency for the counties that were impacted by the tornadoes and severe weather on Friday. She said the Resolution for the State of Emergency would give the County the opportunity to receive any assistance for the recovery process.



Commissioner NeSmith asked the status of the Emergency Operations Center. Mr. Dixon said they were in the process of doing a bid for construction. Ms. Whaley said they sent the current contracts to FDM to ensure they were in agreement with all the laws and the County was following the policies and procedures in that process. Once they receive the confirmation back, they will be able to move forward with the design process or may have to go out for re-bids. Mr. Dixon said in the meantime, they were moving forward with their construction manager process because they were told they could not use the people that were in-house, they had to go back out for an RFP. They were designing that process to get it out there.

Chair Green asked the will of the Board.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER NESMITH, THE
BOARD VOTED 3-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.**

MOTION TO ADJOURN

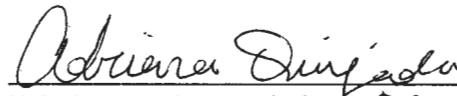
THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN DECLARED
THE EMERGENCY MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:07 AM.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FL



RONTERIOUS GREEN, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:



NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk Deputy Clerk



**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON MAY 21, 2024 AT 6:00 P.M., THE
FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Ronterious Green, Chair, District 5
Alonzetta Simpkins, Vice-Chair, District 2
Eric Hinson, District 1
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
Brenda Holt, District 4
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Green called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Chair Green provided invocation and led into the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

Amendments and Approval of Agenda

Mr. Dixon stated he had no amendments to the agenda and stated item 13 was not approval of the sale on that property; the potential asker had been told no a number of times and they have asked to bring it before the board.

Commissioner Holt appeared at 6:03 p.m.

Chair Green stated he would like to table item 12 due to having a brief conversation and would like to do more of an in-depth conversation as it related to the individual occupying the residence.

CHAIR GREEN MADE A MOTION TO TABLE ITEM 12 AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.

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

Awards, Presentations and Appearances

Mr. Dixon presented the proclamation below.

Commissioner Hinson appeared at 6:05 p.m.

1. Proclamation Recognizing EMS Week

Chair Green presented the proclamation to the EMS staff.

Chief Hood gave his thanks and presented his staff.

2. Proclamation Recognizing Public Works Week

Commissioner NeSmith presented the proclamation to the Public Works staff.

3. Recognition of Pat Durden

Commissioner Simpkins presented the recognition to Pat Durden.

4. Recognition of Dr. Henry Grant

Commissioner Hinson presented the recognition to Dr. Henry Grant.

CONSENT

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

5. Ratification Memo

6. BOCC Meeting/Workshop Minutes:

a. April 16, 2024, Regular BOCC Meeting

7. Approval of Johnson Control Fire Protection Agreement to replace the Fire Alarm Panel at the Gadsden County Jail

8. Approval of the Judicial Inquiry System (JIS) Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) – Access Certification Statement

9. Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Liens – State Housing Initiative Partnership Program (SHIP)

10. Approval and Signatures for Satisfaction of Special Assessment Lien

11. Approval of the 2024 Spring Rural County Grant Agreement for E911 System and MapFlex Annual Support and Maintenance

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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.org 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 via Zoom using the credentials on the County's website. The Board's meetings are also broadcast live on the Board's Facebook page.

Chair Green read aloud the above statement.

Caroline Smith, 617 Williams St, Tallahassee

Ms. Smith appeared before the Board and stated she was with the Apalachee Regional Planning Council. They are working on an economic development plan project and wanted to provide an update. She stated at the next County Commission meeting, they plan to provide more of a presentation and a full update. Earlier this year, ARPC partnered with Gadsden County to write a new economic development plan for the county. They are currently writing the draft plan which will be available to them soon for their review.

Marion Lasley, 5 Dante Court

Ms. Lasley appeared before the board and had complaints in regards to their neighbor, Champs Chance dog compound. She had concerns regarding noise from barking and odor from dog feces. She was requesting for the county to do a cease-and-desist letter for this compound.

Christopher Smith, 149 Virgil Way

Mr. Smith also had concerns about the Champs Chance dog compound. He had concerns about so many dogs in a little area.

Bill Olms, 330 Virgil Way

Mr. Olms stated that dogs get on their property about once a month and not sure how friendly the dogs are.

Carl Pounsberry, 10870 Old Federal Rd Quincy

Mr. Pounsberry stated they own a cattle farm across the street from the dog compound and had concerns about that as well. He stated the dog compound is a good thing but not in a residential area.

Chair Green stated this was the first-time hearing about this and stated he would like to go down and see it for himself.

Mr. Dixon stated the hurricane illuminated this particular situation. That area was hit pretty good. He noticed dog cages in the front yard. He was unaware of what was happening in Code Enforcement and if there has been a call. He asked Morris Roosevelt if he was aware of code enforcement activity.

Morris Roosevelt appeared and stated there was a code enforcement case on that property. The owner has made comments to them that she had been looking at purchasing some property that was more suitable for the activities she was having. They were working with her as well as the Planning Board on this situation.

Ann Blount, 1010 Buck Blount Rd

Ms. Blount appeared and stated she wanted to talk about agriculture in this County and the importance of it.

Public Hearing

General Business

12. Board Direction Regarding an Eviction Action

Tabled

13. Approval for County Administrator to negotiate the sale of County-Owned parcel 2-27-3N-2W-0000-00121-0200

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. He stated the property is the EMS station on Highway 27. He stated they have told them no a number of times, however, they wanted to be brought before the Board. Mr. Dixon stated his recommendation is not for approval, to not engage in the conversation in selling the property.

Betty Kellem appeared and stated Mr. Peter Patel had talked to T.J. Lewis. He wanted to put a hotel there. Chair Green stated there seemed to be a whole lot of confusion on this item. Mr. Dixon stated his point had always been that the county had no reason, certainly at the money she was talking about, that was the money they paid for the property. Also, that is an EMS station they were talking about, not just a building. Their plans have to be worked out for the future.

Chair Green asked the attorney if he had the opportunity to review this in depth. Mr. Knowles stated he reviewed it in terms of how they need to proceed legally. He did not get this in advance; it was new to him.

Commissioner Holt stated there was a procedure that needed to be followed. It has to be open to the public, then they could take offers.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if Mr. Lewis had a conversation with the County Administrator. Mr. Dixon stated yes, they asked to be brought before the board. There was no reason for the county to sell the property. He stated he had never given an impression that they wanted to sell the property.

Commissioner Simpkins stated there was discussion relating to negotiation; there was a counter offer. These are things that the Attorney should be a part of from the start, not only at the tail end.

T.J. Lewis appeared. Commissioner Simpkins asked if he had communication with the County Administrator. Mr. Lewis stated yes, he received a phone call in March regarding this property. He spoke with Ms. Kellem and she submitted an unsolicited offer for the property.

It originally came in at \$60k and he was told by the County Administrator that they would not accept that amount for that property.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she noticed that there was communication as it related to EMS being moved to Greenshade. Mr. Lewis stated they met with EMS to see if that was feasible.

Commissioner Holt stated the property has to be bided; she asked the Attorney if he sent a copy of the state statute to the board members. Mr. Knowles stated he sent a copy to Mr. Lewis that was included in the new agenda item. He stated they updated the item over the weekend and

Ms. Rogers sent the updated item with the information he provided to the Administrator and Mr. Lewis.

Commissioner Holt asked the Attorney if this was already on the agenda when he read it. Mr. Knowles stated he did not receive this item at all. They edited the item over the weekend to reflect statutory requirements.

Chair Green stated the agenda has been ready in advance and should never hear that the Attorney just got an item.

Commissioner Hinson stated the Chairman has to approve everything. The Chair is the driving force. He stated the Attorney was not to blame.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she should be a part of conversations related to her district.

Mr. Dixon stated this was a conversation had with the team about whether or not it was a good idea for the county. They discussed every opportunity and could not figure out a good deal for EMS.

Cathy Johnson appeared and stated as a nurse, she relies on EMS to be there.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO NOT APPROVE THIS ITEM AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE THE MOTION.

14. Approval of Fire and Rescue Interlocal Agreement Between Gadsden County, Florida and the City of Quincy, Florida

Mr. Dixon presented the above item.

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

Clerk of Court

15. Updates

County Administrator

16. Updates

Mr. Dixon stated the youth fair moved to this Saturday from 9 to 1 p.m. Their first budget workshop will be May 30th 4 p.m. He stated they need a proclamation for Homeowners Association Month.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION MONTH AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR PROBATION WEEK AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

Mr. Dixon stated they met with Commissioner Simpkin's community and becoming before them will be a request to enter into a long-term agreement for St. Hebrem Park. He stated they will be looking for volunteers to come help clean, paint, etc.

County Attorney

- 17. Updates**
No updates.

18. Discussion Items by Commissioners

Commissioner Eric F. Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson thanked the Board for remaining calm and doing good work. He requested a proclamation for his parents who have been married for 60 years.

COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR COMMISSIONER HINSON'S PARENTS, WILLIAM HINSON AND JEANETTE HINSON AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Hinson thanked all the students in Gadsden County who graduated during the Covid era. He asked to do something spectacular for the graduates.

Commissioner Kimblin E. NeSmith, J.D., District 3

Commissioner NeSmith asked the County Administrator about legal services and Mr. Dixon stated it came in today, he will get with the Chairman in the morning.

Commissioner NeSmith stated Arnita Green will be retiring after 36 years at the Clerk's office and would like to do a recognition.

COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE A MOTION FOR A RECOGNITION FOR ARNITA GREEN'S RETIREMENT AND CHAIR GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

Commissioner NeSmith mentioned May Day and asked if they have their own May Day celebration. He stated he would like to have a motion to coordinate their own May Day event. Chair Green stated they do not necessarily need to have a motion for that but maybe they could give some directions to start having a conversation.

Commissioner NeSmith asked about the Summer Youth program. Chair Green stated they maximized the numbers. Mr. Dixon stated yes, they have, he will be sending out something in the morning.

Commissioner NeSmith thanked them for the construction on Hardaway Highway.

Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt stated June 19 they will be having the dedication of the extension building they approved.

Chair Green stepped out at 7:52 p.m.

Commissioner Holt mentioned fencing on the back parking lot. She stated there were several problems the last 2 weeks.

Commissioner Holt stated on May 25, there will be a celebration at Fort Negro; there was a battle down there during the early 1800's.

Commissioner Holt stated she will not be in town for the budget workshop.

Commissioner Holt asked if the security guard at the lake was certified to carry a weapon. She stated they should be certified for their own protection and she asked the County Administrator to look into that.

Commissioner Holt asked the County Attorney to give a legal opinion once he gets an item. She stated they have had attorneys before give opinions on everything. Mr. Knowles stated that the original item stated that he reviewed it but he did not. He had contacted the County Administrator and T.J. Lewis. He asked Commissioner Holt if he were to receive an item 5 or 10 minutes before a meeting starts, that she would like for him to prepare a memorandum? asked if gets item 5-10 min before meeting, to prepare a memo? Commissioner Holt stated what she was saying was that if he got an item, even though the item is on the agenda, go ahead and give them a legal opinion of it then. She asked Mr. Knowles if when he does not receive anything early, did he go after it and call Mr. Dixon. Mr. Knowles stated usually he receives an item from staff. Commissioner Holt asked if he was aggressively going after the items and Mr. Knowles stated yes, because he usually receives them ahead of time.

Commissioner Hinson mentioned lighting and stated it was too dark in some areas. There are Issues with striping as well.

Commissioner Holt asked the County Attorney if there were any requests for contracts that he received that has not been able to get back to staff. Mr. Knowles stated he just received an email regarding the debris removal contracts from Ms. Rogers this evening. He also received a request earlier today regarding the engineering secondary contract. Commissioner Holt stated she asked him that because she was asking the Administrator for emails, anything pertaining to contracts.

Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned Selman Road and stated there was a lot of traffic. County vehicles and city vehicles going down that road and some citizens were concerned about safety. There were big vehicles going down that road fast. Mr. Dixon stated that road needed to be widened and they also need to look into lighting for that road.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
May 21, 2024 - Regular Meeting

Commissioner Simpkins asked about working on the blue reflectors on fire hydrants. Mr. Dixon stated they have talked about it but it sounded like something they could do with the nonprofit fire departments and maybe put a program together.

Commissioner Simpkins would like for them to look at where they see themselves five years from now. What would they look like in 10 years and how they can keep the youth to stay in Gadsden County.

Mr. Dixon mentioned the lady from ARPC that spoke earlier. They are an agrarian based economy; need to do more to ensure safety. Commissioner Hinson stated need to look at how much you need to make to afford a house.

Commissioner Holt mentioned getting transportation to Amazon. They need to apply for infrastructure funding for city buses to come over from Tallahassee. Commissioner Hinson stated their biggest investment is in children. Build 10 acres of land for teachers.

Chair Ronterious Green, District 5

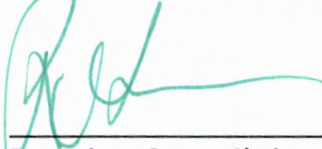
Chair Green thanked the new Parks and Rec person, Ms. Shawana, who was already doing phenomenal work. The first community cleanup for the park is June 1st for the Shiloh Community. He also mentioned that he had a great event with the Seniors at the lake. He asked the County Administrator to take a look at having the weed trimmed in the water. Chair Green mentioned the parking at this facility when they are closed because it could cause major liability.

CHAIR GREEN MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR 50 YEARS OF SENIOR SERVICES AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

Motion to Adjourn

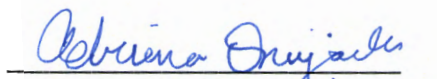
THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, VICE-CHAIR SIMPKINS DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:35 PM.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA



Ronterious Green, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:


NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk Deputy



**AT A WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON MAY 30, 2024 AT 4:00 P.M., THE
FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Ronterious Green, Chair, District 5
Alonzetta Simpkins, Vice-Chair, District 2
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Opal McKinney Williams, Assistant County Attorney
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Green called the workshop to order at 4 p.m. Chair Green led into the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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Chair Green read aloud the above statement.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Introduction

Mr. Dixon introduced the workshop and stated there will be a highlighted presentation from Ms. Burgess. He stated they would be talking about general things in the budget. They would be highlighting each department head in the meetings to come.

Commissioner Simpkins arrived at 4:05 p.m.

2. Preliminary Budget Discussion

Jenifer Burgess, Budget Director, appeared and mentioned what they would be discussing. One of the things they wanted to highlight was a potential legislative proposal to modify homestead exemptions. She stated it has the potential to have a negative impact and wanted to make sure they were being fiscally responsible.

Ms. Burgess stated on page 2 of the packet, it mentioned the economy and the impact that it has. During COVID, they saw really high inflation rates that got up to 9%. Currently, as of March 2024, they were in the 3.5, 3.8% inflation rate.

Ms. Burgess mentioned legislative outlook and stated the preliminary budget was developed while addressing significant challenges associated with newly adopted legislation and the recurring threat of proposed legislation to shift costs to local governments while restricting revenues. There was a proposed constitutional amendment, if approved by voters, would provide an annual inflationary adjustment to the exempt value of Homestead properties. The impact this would have on the county would be that the county would not be receiving as much revenue growth in ad valorem taxes. The Revenue Estimating Conference estimated that if the amendment was approved by the voters, the impact on non-school local government if FY 2025-26 (the first year of implementation), would be approximately -\$22.8 million, growing to approximately -\$111.8 million in FY 2028-29 for local governments, assuming current tax rates.

Ms. Burgess stated another important economic aspect that they were researching while developing their budget was housing trends. They were looking at housing trends because local governments rely on property taxes as a primary source of revenue. Gadsden County was currently at 9 mills as of 2024.

Ms. Burgess went on to the general fund major revenue and stated for FY 2024, the County has received 92% of the budgeted Net Ad Valorem Taxes. The County has received a total of 84% of major revenue sources in the general fund. Ms. Burgess stated they have budgeted \$30 million for expenditures.

Ms. Burgess went through the FY 2025 Preliminary Budget outlook. She mentioned price increases and stated they were seeing an increase in prices of goods and services. They may see increases in their baseline budget. She stated they also need to take into account the salary survey. For FY 2025, they will see the impact of the salary survey for the full fiscal year. Ms. Burgess went on to healthcare and pension costs. She stated they saw an increase for their healthcare of 4% last year. For FY 2025, they were not anticipating any major increases in the FRS pension rate.

Ms. Burgess stated there has been discussions in the past few months regarding funding for EMS and Fire services. They were continuing to research and identify ways to avoid potential deficits. They were also looking at ways to increase recruitment and attract quality staff. For Fire services, one of the things they were looking at was the cost of installing new fire hydrants.

Ms. Burgess mentioned the Summer Youth Program. She stated for FY 2024, they budgeted \$350,000. That was in anticipation of 200 students and staff, in addition to 100 students being sponsored by CareerSource. The County has approximately 325 students participating in the Summer Youth program in the current year. CareerSource has had a decrease in funding. If the County was to fund all 325 students, the cost needed to run the program would be approximately \$500,000.

Ms. Burgess stated another thing they were researching were lines of credit for natural disaster events and construction projects. Vendors are paid from current year funding and the County must then wait for FEMA to approve the work and request reimbursement. Sometimes, it could cause an issue with cash flow. Other small counties have established lines of credit for these situations. Therefore, staff will research lines of credit for future Board discussion.

Ms. Burgess went through the new departments under Gadsden County. She stated Elderly Affairs was created to focus on providing diverse recreational, educational, social, nutritional, cultural, and health activities for older adults in the community. The Economic Development Department was established in 2023 to assist in supporting business and employment growth within all six municipal districts and unincorporated areas in Gadsden County. Ms. Burgess mentioned that she included Parks and Recreation even though it was not a new department, they have a new director.

Chair Green asked about estimate numbers to fund these new departments. Ms. Burgess stated on the next workshop they would have a better idea of what departments would be requesting.

Chair Green asked about the summer youth program. He asked about the decrease from CareerSource. Mr. Dixon stated there had been a change since that conversation. Commissioner NeSmith stated he had a conversation with the Executive Director and will continue to underwrite those students. It has been rectified.

Chair Green asked when they expected to have the other 26% of the revenue for general funds. Ms. Burgess stated they did not know, some of it was monthly.

Commissioner NeSmith wanted to make the sure budget was in line with their strategic plan. He asked about the proposed legislation – it could impact ad valorem taxes. He asked if it would be proposed in 2024. Ms. Burgess stated yes, it would impact the 2026 budget. Chair Green stated this was not just a county thing and it was going around all of Florida. Mr. Dixon stated it was going to pass with 95% of vote and a campaign was not really necessary.

Commissioner NeSmith asked Mr. Dixon if additional revenue streams were available. Mr. Dixon stated yes and he would be sending options. Commissioner NeSmith mentioned summer youth and stated school ended last week. He asked when would summer youth start and Mr. Dixon stated it would start on June 24.

Commissioner NeSmith mentioned Elderly Affairs and asked if there were additional grants/ resources for that department. Mr. Dixon stated he had not been able to win one yet. He has had conversations about doubling efforts to go after funding. That program has to generate additional funding.

Commissioner NeSmith mentioned the deficit with EMS. Mr. Dixon stated they had a deficit last year in EMS. He has been looking at a deficit as they run the program month to month. They have been looking into what they could do; it was a necessary service.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if they could get a quarterly ad valorem revenue estimate as they get into their budget. Mr. Dixon stated they would get that on June 1.

Commissioner Simpkins stated they need to think about the homestead exemption as it will have a big impact on them. They cannot be dependent on taxes from citizens.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned putting a policy in place for salaries. That way there would be no question as to how individuals will be paid. She asked the County Administrator when would the next budget meeting be. Mr. Dixon stated they will try to get things done – set on numbers.


Commissioner NeSmith asked if the County Administrator will meet with them individually and Mr. Dixon stated yes.

Chair Green gave thanks to Ms. Burgess for her presentation and thanked the commissioners.

Motion to Adjourn

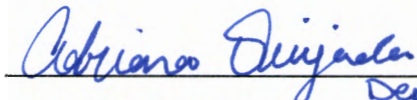
THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN DECLARED THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED AT 4:52 PM.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA



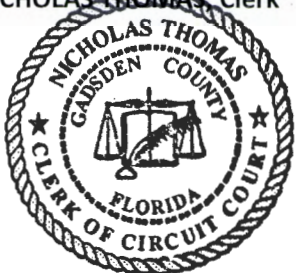
Ronterious Green, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:



Deputy

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk



**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JUNE 4, 2024 AT 6:00 P.M., THE
FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Ronterious Green, Chair, District 5
Alonzetta Simpkins, Vice-Chair, District 2
Eric Hinson, District 1
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
Brenda Holt, District 4
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Green called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. Rev. Flowers provided invocation and Chair Green led into the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

Amendments and Approval of Agenda

Mr. Dixon stated he had amendments to the agenda:

Request to be added under Awards, Presentations and Appearances:

1a. Proclamation Honoring the 50th Anniversary for Gadsden County Senior Services

Request to be added under Consent:

18a. Approval of Gadsden County Bicentennial Cycling Event Agreement with TopView Sports

Mr. Dixon stated item 3 will be pulled.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED AND
COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.**

Awards, Presentations and Appearances

1. Proclamation National Homeownership Month

Mr. Dixon presented this item.

Commissioner Simpkins read aloud the proclamation and Ms. Burns and the Housing staff appeared to accept the proclamation. Ms. Burns gave her thanks.

1a. Proclamation Honoring the 50th Anniversary for Gadsden County Senior Services

Chair Green presented the proclamation to Gadsden County Senior Services.

2. Recognition of Arnita Green

Commissioner NeSmith presented a proclamation to Arnita Green for her retirement.

3. **Recognition of Rev. and Mrs. William Hinson**

Pulled

4. **Presentation by the Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC) of progress to develop the Gadsden County Economic Development & Resiliency Plan**

Mr. Dixon presented the above item.

Mr. Lewis stated he will present the speakers and give a background on this. He stated on August 15, 2023, the Florida Department of Commerce awarded Gadsden County the competitive Florida Partnership Grant to complete a review of the existing economic development and resiliency documents to facilitate public participation, outreach, and engagement with the residents and prepare an action-oriented economic development and resiliency plan for incorporation to the county's comprehensive plan. This presentation will provide an update on the status of this initiative by the Apalachee Regional Planning Council. On May 7, 2024, Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners approved an agreement with the Florida Department of Commerce providing the County with state funding in the amount of \$59,475.50 for the reassessment and update of the Gadsden County Economic Development Plan.

Commissioner NeSmith stepped out 6:21 p.m.

Mr. Lewis introduced Caroline Smith and Alex Valdez from the Apalachee Regional Planning Council.

Caroline Smith and Alex Valdez appeared before the Board. Ms. Smith stated Gadsden County selected ARPC to lead the county with planning activities required under Competitive Florida Partnership Grant and to provide coordination and admin support services to Gadsden County.

Commissioner NeSmith returned at 6:23 p.m.

Caroline Smith and Ms. Valdez went through the PowerPoint providing a project update for Economic Development & Resiliency Plan.

5. **Presentation by Purvis and Gray of Gadsden County 09/30/2023 Audited Financial Statements**

Ryan Tucker, Purvis & Gray, appeared before the Board and went through their PowerPoint regarding the Audited Financial Statements for the county.

Mr. Tucker stated they were issuing an unmodified opinion on the county wide financial statements and each of the five constitutional officers. It was referred to as a "clean" opinion and was the highest level of assurance that they could receive from a CPA firm. There were no significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control over financial reporting were reported under Government Auditing Standards. They had to do a single audit for the major federal and state programs. The reports were clean and had no deficiencies.

The BOCC did not perform a comprehensive inventory of capital assets and reconcile that inventory to the underlying capital asset subsidiary records. Mr. Tucker stated they were still looking to resolve the inventory of fixed assets. They got about 50% of that done and were still working to complete that. The County does not have a centralized location for its lease and software arrangements and needed their assistance in preparing comprehensive inventory of these items.

Florida Statutes require each County Officer to make an annual report of revenues and expenses within 31 days of the close of the fiscal year. The Sheriff's books and records were not closed and ready for audit until February of 2024. They recommend procedures to be implemented to ensure that the books and records are closed in a timely manner.

Mr. Tucker went through county-wide expenses. The total program expenses were \$56,304,872 for 2023.

Mr. Tucker mentioned the federal and state grant activity - 50 grants combined totaling \$12,284,215. Mr. Tucker went through capital asset activity and long-term debt activity. Commissioner Hinson asked about general funds. He asked what was the number needed to look at in reserve. Mr. Tucker stated minimum of 2 months in reserve.

Commissioner Simpkins asked about the findings for 2022 and if not corrected, what was their time frame? Mr. Tucker stated the correspondence will go to the Sheriff's office – the board did not really have to do anything. Commissioner Simpkins stated she was referring to the BOCC findings. Mr. Tucker stated it was the second year for that one, so if they have it again next year, then they would get a letter from the joint legislative auditing committee.

Commissioner Holt mentioned indigent care tax to open hospital or recruit another hospital company.

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

CONSENT

Chair Green asked for a motion. To approve the consent agenda.

Commissioner Simpkins asked about item 18a. Commissioner Hinson asked for a brief synopsis on Items 8, 9. Commissioner NeSmith pulled item 16 for discussion.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ITEM 16 AND ITEM 18A AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

6. **Ratification Memo**

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

- a. May 07, 2024, Regular BOCC Meeting
 - b. May 11, 2024, Emergency Meeting
8. **Approval of Supplemental Agreement for Iron Bridge Road**
9. **Approval of the GA Food Service Agreement with Gadsden County Elderly Affairs**
10. **Approval to Accept the Florida E911 Rural County Grant Program Agreement to Replace the Current 911 Call Handling System with Motorola VESTA 911 Call Handling System**
11. **Approval of Modification #3 to the State-Funded Small County Emergency Operations**
12. **Approval of the Agreement for Gadsden County Emergency Debris Removal Services with Crowder Gulf**
13. **Approval of the Agreement for Gadsden County Emergency Debris Removal Services with DRC Emergency Services**
14. **Approval of the Agreement for Gadsden County Emergency Debris Monitoring Services with Tetra Tech, Inc.**
15. **Approval of the Agreement for Gadsden County Emergency Debris Monitoring Services with Thompson Consulting Services**
16. **Approval for an Emergency Purchase of Two Air Condition Units for the Simon Scott Building**
17. **Approval to Apply for the Healthy Kids Initiative Funding Provided by Play & Park Structures for Shiloh Park, St. John Park, Sawdust Park, and Fantana Trail Park**
18. **Approval of the Florida Council on Aging Partnership Memorandum of Understanding with Gadsden County Elderly Affairs**
- 18a. **Approval of Gadsden County Bicentennial Cycling Event Agreement with TopView Sports**

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

8. **Approval of Supplemental Agreement for Iron Bridge Road**
Mr. Dixon stated they asked the state for increased funding for Iron Bridge Road.
They funded \$662, 540 and need additional money due to increases in the budget.

9. Approval of the GA Food Service Agreement with Gadsden County Elderly Affairs

Latoya Fryson appeared and gave explanation on this item. She stated this was an annual agreement that provides meals to site.

16. Approval for an Emergency Purchase of Two Air Condition Units for the Simon Scott Building

Commissioner NeSmith asked about the condition on units at Havana and Chattahoochee

Mr. Dixon state Massey building units were refreshed and they were doing work in Havana to the building.

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

18a. Approval of Gadsden County Bicentennial Cycling Event Agreement with TopView Sports

Mr. Dixon presented the item.

Chair Green asked if this was already included in the budget.

Mr. Hayes appeared and stated yes. They currently had 31 interested bicyclers. The cycle route will run through Quincy to Havana and back.

Commissioner Hinson stated they need to continue to widen roads for bikers.

Commissioner Simpkins asked about what was left in the budget. Mr. Hayes stated they had enough money to cover this, he believed they had \$17,000 left in that line item.

Commissioner Simpkins stated when she looked at that line item, she saw about \$9,000 left. Mr. Hayes stated he was not sure of the exact number it showed but they made sure there was enough money.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she was not seeing the 15k that was left for that. She had received information from the Clerk's office.

Chair Green asked if there were different forms or documents and Mr. Hayes stated no.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if this was coming from the Tourist Development Council and Chair Green stated this was under the Board of County Commissioners.

Chair Green stated this could wipe all funds out and he could not support it. They have maximized funds they could spend.

Commissioner Holt stated the difference in 9k and 15k did not bother her. She stated a couple thousand people would go and they would get tourism. They need to offer something to get them back. They had funds in TDC to help with this.

Commissioner Holt asked if they were still doing the gospel concert and Chair Green stated not with this funding they were not.

Chair Green stated he wanted to make sure there were accurate numbers.

Commissioner Hinson mentioned public-private partnership. He asked where they would be riding and Mr. Hayes stated from Havana to Quincy

Mr. Hayes stated it would be an all-day race, they will get here on Saturday afternoon.

Commissioner Simpkins stated there was \$9,000 available in that fund that she received from Clerk's office.

Commissioner Simpkins stated Commissioner Holt mentioned about transferring funds from TDC – if they were going to do that then fine. They need to make sure the funding is there.

Commissioner Holt stated she agreed with Commissioner Simpkins on funding; had no problem voting on it.

Commissioner Simpkins stated this event is on June 23. They need to do a better job at planning in advance.

Commissioner NeSmith asked the attorney what happens if it storms and the attorney stated they would re-schedule the event.

Commissioner Hinson asked when they came up with this idea and Mr. Hayes stated a couple months ago.

Chair Green stated the courthouse square did not look the way it looks now several years ago. Looking at the Clerk's report, he stated he can move to approve.

CHAIR GREEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THIS ITEM AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS OPPOSED.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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Chair Green read aloud the above statement.

Mike Watson, 2793 Sycamore Road

Mr. Watson appeared to discuss Sycamore Road. He invited commissioners to ride the road.

Tricia Brooks, 605 Chinquapin Rd. Monticello, FL

Ms. Brooks appeared to discuss Champs Chance.

Daniella Flores, 924 W Pensacola St. Tallahassee, FL

Ms. Flores appeared and is a coordinator at Champs Chance. She provided a background on Champs Chance.

Commissioner Simpkins stepped out at 8 p.m.

Alicia Bopp, 376 Milton St. Quincy, FL 32351

Ms. Bopp appeared before the Board to discuss Champs Chance. She went through the background of what they do for the dogs. They have adopted over 200 dogs. They were looking at properties but funding was their issue. She stated the neighbors have yelled at their volunteers. She mentioned water contamination issue. Ms. Bopp thanked Commissioner Green for coming out to visit and asked Commissioner Hinson for a conversation on property in his district.

Kate Macfall, 1206 Walton Dr. Tallahassee, FL

Ms. Macfall appeared. She stated they need a new location for Gadsden County Animal services. She wanted the board to accept a grant and asked the commissioners to visit animal services.

Mr. Dixon stated he was aware of the grant and they were trying to find out the long-term effects.

Commissioner Simpkins asked about funding for that grant. Ms. Macfall stated she knew of funds.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she would like to see requirements of that grant.

Daniel Read, 445 Lonradi St.

Mr. Reed appeared and talked about Champs Chance as well.

Brittani Bradwell, 2962 McCall Bridge Rd

Ms. Bradwell appeared and stated she was unable to get a home at this time. Currently pending with Clayton Homes.

Mr. Dixon stated this was one of those cases where their laws and rules were impacting her. He asked Mr. Morris to appear and Mr. Attorney stated they should not discuss this.

Mr. Dixon stated Planning has not ruled on this yet.

Attorney stated she was entitled to due process with planning & zoning. Anything they say today could be used against them.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

19. Public Hearing – Adoption of Ordinance No. 2024-02: School Zones Speed Detection System

Mr. Dixon stated this was presented by the Sheriff's department due to alarming number of traffic speeders in school zones. This item was to approve an ordinance for automated traffic enforcement instruments inside school zones within the county.

The Attorney stated the Sheriff's Department was on board with this Ordinance. If approved, it would allow devices to be placed and program to start.

Commissioner Hinson asked if it includes day care centers and Mr. Dixon stated just schools.

No comments from audience.

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

GENERAL BUSINESS

20. Approval of Lease Agreement for St. Hebron Park

NO MATERIALS PROVIDED TO CLERK

Mr. Dixon stated this seeks approval from Board.

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

CLERK OF COURT

21. Updates

No updates.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

22. Updates

Mr. Dixon stated Commissioner Simpkins will be guest speaker for Women's Veterans Day Recognition on June 12.

Mr. Dixon requested a proclamation for Probation Week.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR PROBATION WEEK AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

23. Updates

No updates.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

24. Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson mentioned neighborhood health. He asked to have a meeting to discuss this. The County Attorney stated he contacted the director; their attorney will draft a lease.

Commissioner Hinson mentioned property; riding around a store in Midway. The road is bumpy and if the county was responsible, they should look into that.

Commissioner Hinson asked about Havana Senior vans. Mr. Dixon stated he thought they could get it through a lease; insurance policy took it through the roof.

Commissioner Hinson stated he would like to schedule a meeting with the Fire Department. Mr. Dixon stated they were going to start talking with members of nonprofit departments about a contract.

Commissioner Hinson mentioned looking into a library in Midway.

Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, J.D., District 3

Chair Green stepped out at 8:28 p.m.

Commissioner NeSmith stated they have a gap between school ending and summer youth starts.

Chair Green returned at 8:30 p.m.

Ms. Burroughs appeared and stated they have 318 students in the program. They were working with CareerSource and they have 90 applicants. Technical College was ready to go with the students.

Commissioner NeSmith stated the priority was taking care of their youth. Commissioner Hinson stated they need as many 14-year-olds.

Commissioner NeSmith asked about welcoming signs. Chair Green stated signs needed updates. Ms. Steele stated signs were being developed.

Commissioner NeSmith thanked them for work done on Hardaway Highway.

Commissioner NeSmith stated other counties have grooves in middle of roads and asked if that could be incorporated. Mr. Young stated they could apply that to the grant.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt mentioned the upkeep of parks like Friendship Park. If any destruction on parks, they need to try to enforce the time limits on parks and call the police.

Commissioner Holt mentioned guidelines for proclamations. She had people ask her if there were any.

Commissioner Holt stated she received a call about renting space at the hospital and wanted the Attorney to look into that.

Commissioner Holt stated she was in favor of a county owned fire station and they needed to look into the cost of funding it. She also mentioned striping and reflectors on roads.

Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, Vice-Chair, District 2

Commissioner Simpkins stated they need striping on Jameson Road and St. Hebron Road. Mr. Dixon stated they reached out to other counties; hopefully one or two counties could come in and do the striping.

Commissioner Simpkins also asked about lighting and Mr. Dixon stated they reached out to Crypta and DOT for a feasibility study.

Commissioner Simpkins asked about Robertsville being staffed and Mr. Dixon stated yes. She asked to get a rating on that.

Commissioner Simpkins stated they need to take a look at where the overage was taking place with the budget amount.

Commissioner Simpkins stated there should be a process for County vehicles. They are not personal items so it should be running like a government entity. Information should be readily available as to who has what vehicles. She would like for the Economic Director to be focusing on economic development.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned Scott Town Park and wanted to make sure it was included. Mr. Young appeared and stated they do regular maintenance on that park.

Commissioner Simpkins stated east Quincy did not really have anything and asked if they could start looking into that.

Commissioner Holt asked why didn't the attorney write a lease agreement for that property. Mr. Dixon stated they were working on a timeframe and wanted to help the attorney out.

Commissioner Hinson asked if there was a system in place for county vehicles and Mr. Dixon stated they submitted the listing to the Clerk's office. Every new car they buy has a gps tracker on it.

Commissioner Hinson stated they need infrastructure. They need the economic director to go after funds.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 8:58 p.m.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, Chair, District 5

Chair Green mentioned Code Enforcement. They were having several issues in the County with this and asked how they were staffed with that and how they were meeting those requests. Mr. Dixon stated they just hired a new Code Enforcement Officer.

Chair Green stated he liked the idea of recognizing new businesses. They should consider this quarterly. He asked to get emailed the guidelines for proclamations. Commissioner Hinson stated if the Board wanted to recognize someone, they should just do it.

Chair Green mentioned job availability and asked where they were with being fully staffed. Mr. Dixon stated he believed they were fully staffed and they just hired a new Health and Human Services Coordinator; Ms. Burroughs stated they will start on the 25th.

Chair Green thanked the park director and citizens with the upkeep of Shiloh Park.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

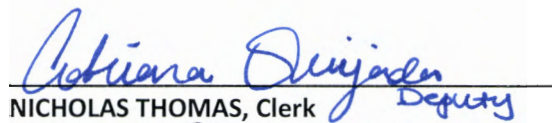
THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:14 PM.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA



Ronterious Green, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:



NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk Deputy



**AT A BUDGET WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JUNE 11, 2024 AT 4:00 P.M.,
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Ronterious Green, Chair, District 5
Alonzetta Simpkins, Vice-Chair, District 2
Eric Hinson, District 1
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
Brenda Holt, District 4
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Green called the workshop to order at 4 p.m. He led into Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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Chair Green read aloud the above statement.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Property Tax Revenue Estimate**

Mr. Dixon appeared and stated they will be going through the budget but not as in-depth as Mrs. Burgess was not present but there were other departments present to go deeper into their budget. Mr. Dixon stated they did not do a walk through on fire and EMS because there were a lot of things to be worked out first.

Commissioner Simpkins appeared at 4:07 p.m.

Mr. Dixon went through the first few pages of the packet discussing the budget report on state funding and projected revenues.

Mr. Dixon mentioned the Ad Valorem Revenue Estimate and stated there was an estimated increase from 2024 to 2025 of \$1,376,287. Mr. Dixon also mentioned the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA).

Commissioner Hinson appeared at 4:14 p.m.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if they heard from the CRA's – they have 4 of them. He asked if there were any presentations by CRA to see where the money is going. Mr. Dixon stated they could gather information on that. Commissioner Holt asked about the funding and what amounts were they matching. She stated the County could set up their own CRA.

Chair Green stated a presentation from CRA would be appreciated. Commissioner Holt stated to make sure they are on good legal ground beforehand. Mr. Dixon stated a great portion of their funding comes from the county.

3. Department Presentations

ELDERLY AFFAIRS (LATOYA FRYSON)

Ms. Fryson appeared before the board to discuss Elderly Affairs.

Chair Green stepped out at 4:21 p.m.

The Department of Elderly Affairs focuses on providing diverse recreational, educational, social, nutritional, cultural, and health activities, programs, services, and special events for older adults in the community.

Elderly Affairs offers programs, activities and opportunities designed to encourage active living, optimal aging, and physical and social fitness for independents adults aged 55 and over.

Senior services and operational congregate meals site are located in 3 areas of the county Quincy, Chattahoochee, and Havana. A partnership is extended to the City of Gretna and Gadsden Wellness for the seniors that receive services from their sites as well.

There are over 200 seniors registered within the 3 sites for Congregate meal and home delivered meal services. In addition to the programs that have been in existence for years, the Elderly Affairs department continues to create and offer programs and services that directly address the needs of seniors in Gadsden County.

Ms. Fryson gave a recap of Fiscal Year 2024:

1. Awarded the Older American Act Grant July 2023. January 2024 new reward amount of over \$250k for the year. Over 50% of the staff that work directly within the OAA Grant, salaries go into each category of the OAA grant (C1) Congregate Meals, (C2) Home Delivered Meals, and (IIIB) Transportation and Recreation. The OAA grant is contracted with the Elderly Affairs department for a 5-year period.
2. Full Operation of the Carver Height Senior Center from 2 day a week to 5 and from around 8 seniors to just over 30 seniors registered at this site.
3. Over 200 seniors registered services between all 3 sites; currently serving Meals on Wheels to 33 clients.

4. Provided Diabetes Education Classes in each of the Centers.
5. Farmer' Market Vouchers issued to seniors in the community twice a year.
6. Held Food and Community Supply Drives in Quincy and Chattahoochee for seniors over 60.
7. Offered monthly legal clinic monthly at all the center with the North Florida Legal Services
8. Partnered with the Salvation Army for the setup of a food pantry every 2nd Tuesday of each month
9. Line dancing classes twice a month
10. Exercise classes every Tuesday
11. Alzheimer and Healthy Brain Series with FSU COM and DCCI monthly
12. Hurricane Preparedness Meal Distribution, yearly with FPL and FCOA
13. Computer training with the library.
14. Produce market and education by Second Harvest.
15. Bi-monthly haircuts with Gadsden Technical College.
16. Senior Outings, Senior Appreciation Day with Making a Difference Org. and Senior Fun Day in Partnership with GCSO.

Chair Green returned at 4:27 p.m.

Ms. Fryson mentioned the Elderly Affairs goals/achievements and went through the budget snapshot.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
June 11, 2024 – Budget Workshop

Department Achievements	FY24
Number of Congregate meals served	5,903
Number of Home Delivered Meals served	5,920
Emergency Home Delivered Meals provided	463
Number of seniors that received supplemental utility assistance	172
Number of seniors that were provided transportation services (shopping assistance, individual & group trips)	5,322
Number of Recreation Hours	449.45
Farmer's Market Vouchers issued	550
Simon Scott Registered Participants	135
Carver Heights Registered Participants	34
Chattahoochee Registered Participants	12
Home Delivery Clients	33

Dept. Title	DEPT.#	FY2024	FY2025	FY24-25 ADOPTED VS	
		ADOPTED	DEPARTMENT REQUESTED	FY23-24 ADOPTED	
		BUDGET	BASE BUDGET	VARIANCE	COMMENTS
Elderly Affairs	0060	\$ 810,859	\$ 830,000	\$ 19,141	Variance due to impact of staff salary increases.

- OAA Grant Billed- 2023: \$104,378
- OAA Grant Projected 2024: \$251,040
- Total Projected to Receive from Grant: \$355,247

Chair Green asked if they were maximizing opportunities for grants. Ms. Fryson stated they were definitely looking for grants.

Chair Green asked about the utility assistance program and the funding balance. Ms. Fryson stated that was a supplemental utility assistance program.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if they have workout equipment and Ms. Fryson stated they have dumbbells and ordered bands as well. They also walk as well.

Commissioner Hinson asked if they brief the seniors on transportation and Ms. Fryson mentioned the Big Bend transit.

Mr. Dixon stated they need to be more inclusive with them on grants.

PUBLIC WORKS (CURTIS YOUNG)

Mr. Dixon stated Agnes Denson and Roy Bradwell will present for public works on behalf of Mr. Young.

Ms. Denson explained the Public Works Department. Gadsden County's Public Works Department is responsible for maintaining over 700 miles of roads in unincorporated Gadsden County. Public Works is responsible for the administration of policy and objectives, responding to citizen's needs, providing department guidance and direction, reviewing policy matters, preparing, and monitoring capital projects and ensuring consistent day to day maintenance of county roads and storm water infrastructure. The administration division also manages, supervises, and supports the activities of all divisions including budget, payroll, customer service, engineering, invoices, and grants.

Ms. Denson mentioned their goals/ achievements for Public Works. They have maintained 633 miles of paved roads for FY23 and FY24. They have maintained 67 miles of unpaved roads and 67 bridges maintained. They have striped 12 roads with paint for FY23 and they have done 20 roads with thermoplastic in FY24.

Accomplishment: FY 23/24

The Public Works Department received and managed the following grant funded projects:

(5) Local Agency Program – LAP Project - Totaling \$1,690,090

(8) Infrastructure Project

Ms. Denson went through all funds received from FDOT:

Hardway Highway \$4,410,560 SCOP

Providence Road \$3,025,298 SCOP

Ben Bostic Road \$1,902,402 SCOP

Dogtown Road \$1,874,149 SCRAP

Fairbanks Ferry (2nd Phase) \$2,037,148 SCOP

Barineau B-SCOP \$296,120 B-SCOP

Point Milligan Road \$3,240,021 SCOP

Fairbanks Ferry (1st Phase) \$1,700,000 SCOP

Mr. Erik Justin appeared and talked about mosquito control. They normally spray around 860 miles and they have citizen requests of around 300-400 annually. Chemical usage (spray adulticide) – 330-380 gallons for FY24. Chemical usage (larvicide) standing water – 1100 BTI briquets 50lbs granular product.

Mr. Justin went through the FY25 Outlook for Public Works:

- Chemical use to remain in the 330–380-gallon range with 2 spray trucks actively being used for evening operations.
- Zone spray approximately 800-1000 miles of roadways for a treatment acreage of 30,000 to 40,000 acres.
- Larvicide use in the range of 12 cases (1200) units of BTI product.

- Chemical price has increased dramatically in the last couple of years (currently \$30 a gallon) and we have purchased the most affordable effective product available. There are options more effective, however the price increases with a higher percentage active ingredient.
- Monthly purchase of dry ice to bait 5 mosquito traps set within the county to determine baseline mosquito levels as required by the State for verification of the need for chemical applications. Dry ice cost is average of \$50 monthly.

Chair Green asked if any estimate on costs. Mr. Justin stated the chemical cost has doubled - \$30 a gallon.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if they have stayed within the budget and Mr. Justin stated they were in budget right now.

Commissioner Holt asked if there was public notice if they were going to spray a road and Mr. Justin stated not typically, unless there was a notice spray in the system.

Commissioner Hinson asked how effective are the mosquito repellent plants. Mr. Justin stated there were a lot of contradictory answers to that; not very effective for him.

Ms. Denson stated the next portion is about Fleet – vehicle maintenance.

The Fleet Department is responsible for maintaining and servicing ALL vehicles and equipment through-out the County. Fleet Maintenance also orders parts and supplies and maintains an inventory. In addition to these primary functions, replacement of vehicles and equipment, development of specifications before purchase and the submissions for procurement are made through the Fleet Department.

Department Goals/Achievements	FY23	FY24
Number of ALL Vehicles Maintained	120	104
Number of Equipment Maintained	115	115
Number of Small Equipment Maintained	60	60

Ms. Denson mentioned the fuel system. The Department is responsible for managing and maintaining the county fuel dispensing sites.

Department Goals/Achievements	FY23	FY24
Number of Fuel Systems Maintained	2 - Sites	2 Sites
Number of Fuel Equipment Maintained	\$975,904	\$604,673

Commissioner NeSmith asked for clarification on users – were they purchasing and paying the county for usage? Ms. Denson stated yes.

Commissioner Simpkins asked how much they were paying annually and what they were using annually. They stated they would get back with her on that question.

Mr. Dixon stated tanks need to be replaced in regards to the fuel system.

Ms. Denson went through the FY25 Outlook:

Pending available funding:

- Public Works will request fund to pave (1) unpaved road in each district. She stated there was a correction with that. They were actually requesting to pave one mile per year of unpaved roads. One mile equals one million dollars.
- The Fleet department will request shop renovations/upgrades and large working area. The renovations would provide the current mechanics the ability to repair heavy equipment inhouse.
- Fleet department will request to replace the fuel pump and add a covered awning for protection.

Roy Braswell appeared. Commissioner NeSmith asked if there was a road in district 3 or 4 less than a mile and Mr. Bradwell stated yes. Commissioner Holt stated it was expensive to do a mile – she asked if they have equipment and Mr. Bradwell stated yes. Commissioner Hinson stated they should do a bond.

Commissioner Holt mentioned a mowing crew. They need help with that and what numbers it would cost to hire an extra crew.

Commissioner Hinson stated they seem to talk about asking for tractors every year. They need to do an inventory first and look at what was purchased the last couple years. Mr. Dixon stated in 2021, they purchased additional tractors and mowers – the equipment was not performing like they thought they would.

Commissioner NeSmith asked how many mowers and Mr. Dixon stated 6 – total of 10; they were having trouble with newer ones.

		FY2024	FY2025
		ADOPTED	DEPARTMENT REQUESTED
Dept. Title	DEPT. #	BUDGET	BASE BUDGET
Roads & Bridges (PW)	0112	\$ 979,584	\$ 1,020,000
Paved Road & Right of Way Maintenance (PW)	0126	\$ 4,203,960	\$ 4,200,000
Vehicle Maintenance (PW)	0128	\$ 648,527	\$ 715,000
Mosquito Control (PW)	0221	\$ 91,524	\$ 175,000
Total		\$ 5,923,595	\$ 6,110,000

Ms. Denson stated the Fleet Department was requesting shop renovations. They were also requesting to replace the fuel pumps and add the awning covering to protect the fuel pumps.

Chair Green stated if they were leasing new vehicles, should that line item be going up? Mr. Dixon stated the number will be cut in half in terms of maintenance.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if leasing 102 vehicles and they stated no. She asked if it was strictly for vehicles in public works and they stated it entailed all.

BUILDING INSPECTION (ROOSEVELT MORRIS)

Mr. Dixon stated he will go through building inspection. The Building Inspection Department ensures the health, safety, and public welfare of the built environments in Gadsden County by Enforcing the Florida Building Code and related Gadsden County ordinances. This Department is responsible for processing building permit applications, plan reviews, code compliance inspections, and monitoring construction projects to ensure they meet the quality and safety standards required by Florida.

Department Achievements	FY23	YTD FY 24
Number of building inspections performed	\$475,373	\$332,742

- The building department is expecting a slight decline in residential construction with a slight increase in commercial construction for the next year.
- There will be at least several capital improvements project beginning. Steven School improvements and Gadsden County EOC new construction to name a few.
- There is a need to add a Deputy Building Official to the department to ensure the level of service is maintained throughout the year.
- The department will continue to educate the public on the New Florida Building Code 2023 8th edition, that came into effect January 1 of this year.
- To gain more professional experience and community networking opportunities, the

department looks forward to joining the Tallahassee Building Association and the National Building Association this fiscal year.

HUMAN RESOURCES (DR. LISA BURROUGHS)

Ms. Burroughs mentioned their goals/accomplishment for Human Resources:

- Compensation Study - increased County employees pay to the median of their respective pay ranges.
- HRIS – currently in discussions with UKG for a contract to acquire a software system to fully support the employee life cycle from recruitment to separation/retirement.
- Open Access and Communication with HR
– increasing communication and transparency with employees have enhanced trust, morale and employee engagement, while reducing misunderstandings, conflicts, and legal risks, ultimately fostering a positive organizational culture and well-being.

Department Goals/Achievements	FY23	FY24
Number of requisitions created and or recruited for vacant positions.	77	25
Number of positions filled.	40	8
Average Turnover Rate.	16.44%	6.55%
Number of days to fill vacant positions	60	30

					FY24-25 ADOPTED VS FY23-24 ADOPTED	
	FY2024 ADOPTED	FY2025 DEPARTMENT REQUESTED				
Dept. Title	DEPT. #	BUDGET	BASE BUDGET	VARIANCE	COMMENTS	
Human Resources	0016	\$ 361,339	\$ 475,000	113,661	Increase due to estimated impact of HRIS system and staff salary increase.	

SUMMER YOUTH (DR. LISA BURROUGHS)

Ms. Burroughs stated they were about to launch the Summer Youth 6-Week Program; June 21 is orientation day. June 24 will be the start of the program and last through August 2.

She stated they will provide on the job training; next year will be \$13 for wage so they would have to budget for that. She mentioned partnering with Gadsden Technical College and FL Public Safety Institute They would also be partnering with CareerSource Capital Region.

They were anticipating 450 students for FY25. The county needs to secure a budget of \$700,000.

Commissioner Hinson asked about jobs for special needs students. Ms. Burroughs stated they have not customized it yet. Commissioner Hinson stated if they do not identify them, they will not have any. He also wanted to make sure to partner with the school system.

Chair Green stated they need to do a better job on communication with special needs parents. Commissioner Holt asked about monitoring students while working. Ms. Burroughs stated Ms. Germany was working to identify people on job and follow up with them if any issues. They will be doing random visits as well.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if they have enough staff and resources and Mr. Dixon stated no, they need more staff.

Commissioner Hinson mentioned CareerSource and asked if they were paying for all kids? Mr. Dixon stated they know what CareerSource said they would do; they said 100 upfront and then they came back and said as many as possible. Mr. Dixon stated if they hire all the kids, they will be in a budget deficit. Commissioner Simpkins asked if they have something in writing with CareerSource. Mr. Dixon stated they will be Friday.

Department Goals/Achievements	FY23	FY24
Number of summer youth applicants	291	380
Number of students accepted in jobs or educational programs	220	315
Incomplete/Ineligible	71	65
Number of Participating Business/County Departments	62	65

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (TJ LEWIS)

TJ Lewis appeared before the Board to discuss the department of Economic Development. He stated the primary function of Economic Development is business retention and expansion.

Mr. Lewis went through accomplishments:

- Office staffing
- Office lease and buildout
- GadsdenBiz.com
- Using CAD (Computer Animated Design) to tell a story
- New Economic Development & Resiliency Plan

Mr. Lewis mentioned GIS Webtech + Resimplifi

Commissioner NeSmith returned at 6:51 p.m.

Mr. Lewis went through the Goals/25 Outlook for Economic Development:



Dept. Title	DEPT.#	FY2024 ADOPTED BUDGET	FY2025 DEPARTMENT REQUESTED BASE BUDGET	FY2025 DEPARTMENT REQUESTED BASE BUDGET	FY24-25 ADOPTED VS FY23-24 ADOPTED VARIANCE
Gadsden County Economic Development	0024	377,131	375,672	380,000	4,328

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
June 11, 2024 – Budget Workshop

Mr. Lewis mentioned that they would be pursuing grants – one in Brownfield area.

Commissioner Hinson would like for them to talk about how they could build infrastructure. Commissioner NeSmith asked if any applications submitted for infrastructure for the 3 undeveloped exits. Mr. Lewis stated he has been in contact with FDOT.

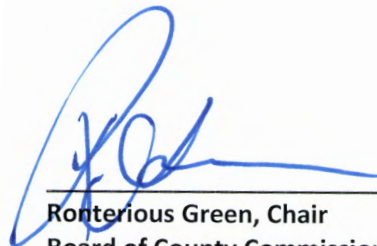
Commissioner NeSmith asked if they were actively looking for resources for interchange. Mr. Lewis stated yes, a plan is coming.

Commissioner Hinson stated he would like for them to authorize the County Administrator to find 10 students that are special needs for the summer youth program. Mr. Dixon stated he will reach out to Ms. Harris at the School District.

Motion to Adjourn

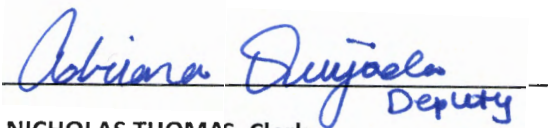
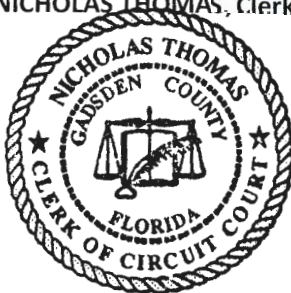
THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN DECLARED THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED AT 7:22 PM.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA



Ronterious Green, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:


NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FL ON JUNE 12, 2024 AT 5:30 P.M., THE
FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Ronterious Green, Chair, District 5
Alonzetta Simpkins, Vice-Chair, District 2
Eric Hinson, District 1 – arrived late
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
Brenda Holt, District 4 -arrived late
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk
Angela Grant Sapp, City of Quincy Mayor, District 2
Ronte Harris, City of Quincy Mayor Pro Tem, District 3
Dr. Robin Wood, City of Quincy Commissioner, District 1
Freida Bass-Prieto, City of Quincy Commissioner, District 4
Dr. Beverly Nash, City of Quincy Commissioner, District 5

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Green welcomed everyone to the joint meeting of the City of Quincy and the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners to discuss the new Community Center that would house the Boys and Girls Club.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD (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 via Zoom using the credentials on the County's website. The Board's meetings are also broadcast live on the Board's Facebook page.

Chair Green read the above statement aloud.

General Business

1. Introduction

- Commissioner Angela Sapp, Mayor

Mayor Sapp gave a brief synopsis of the new center that would house the Boys and Girls Club and stated it would be located on MLK Blvd. where the track field is currently. She mentioned the Jackson Heights playground and pool that was in the area and when kids attended Carter-Parramore High School, they were able to go to the pool, take swimming lessons and return to school to finish out their day. The pool closed approximately 15 years ago and the children then had to venture across Highway 90 to the other pool located on King Street. She stated all their

questions had not been answered, which was why they were here today. The two communities that face the proposed site are an aging community and some do not want to give up their comfort zone they have now. She was looking forward to the conversations to discuss the future of the center. She introduced everyone with City and announced City Manager Robert Nixon was not present due to a death in the family.

- Commissioner Ronterious Green, Chairman, introduced County Commissioners Chair Green introduced the County Commissioners present along with County Administrator Ed Dixon.

- Cari Thro, Board Chair of Boys and Girls Club
Ms. Thro said they were excited to be here and have been serving Gadsden County a long time and was looking forward to expanding.

- Edward Dixon, County Administrator
Mr. Dixon introduced County staff and County Attorney that was present, along with other staff members.

- Robert Nixon, City Manager

- Kacy Dennis, DEO/President of Boys and Girls Club of the Big Bend

Mr. Dennis said he was super excited for them to be here and had some board members with him also and introduced Denise Fletcher, Antonio Jefferson, Vice-Chair, and Daniel Lewis.

2. **Presentations**

- Gadsden County

Mr. Dixon thanked everyone he has had the opportunity to work with.

Chair Green stepped out at 5:45 pm.

He said they had to hurdles to overcome with the community center and there are hurdles they will need to be aware of. One is the orientation of the building, how it relates to the neighborhood and traffic safety. He said they were able to discuss the potential integration of Jackson Heights into the situation and a bridge across MLK. He said with the presentation, this was just some of the things they had discussed. He added they knew there were situations they were aware of.

Chair Green returned at 5:49 pm.

Commissioner Holt arrived at 5:50 pm.

Mr. Dixon continued with the presentation and stated the award date of the grant was July 1, 2023 with receiving \$3.6 Million. He stated the Board has made it their position that they will be looking for additional centers throughout the County. He said the location is MLK Blvd. and as Mayor Grant stated, was the best place for this, being a historical place, provides much needed space in right place in terms of 10 acres and the County's ability to lease the property from the City for 30 years. It shows the level of partnership that the County plans to be here for the next

30 years and plan to make an investment in this spot for the next 30 years. He also added they were aware Boys and Girls Club have requirements and they want to meet those requirements. The County is prepared to provide certain services in this situation, cleaning, etc. that will not take away from the program. In his mind, Jackson Heights remains an opportunity to enhance whatever they do at MLK. He showed renderings that were presented by Boys and Girls Club on how some buildings could look.

Mayor Sapp asked about the lease, if it had been seen yet. Mr. Dixon said it was on the County's agenda for the next meeting. Mayor Sapp said it will be for \$1 a year and the County maintains the facility and the road. Mr. Dixon stated yes.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if there were any additional expectations other than upkeep of the property. Mayor Sapp said she had not seen the lease yet. Mr. Dixon said they had not talked about anything else other than the lease. He said the City Council made it clear they would like to see the walking track go back in in some way, form or fashion, the addition of a pool and a buffer between the neighborhoods.

Commissioner Simpkins said being awarded \$3.6 Million and being realistic as to what they would be able to do, will they be able to fulfil a pool from the start? Mr. Dixon said the city said this was things they would like to see. Mr. Dixon said everything was still in the design phase.

Daniel Lewis from Boys and Girls Club asked from a liability standpoint for the Club, would they be covering the track and pool in addition to, what was their money going to?

Chair Green said everything not going to happen in the first phase. They also knew they would have to find other sources in revenue or grant funding to phase out other pieces.

Commissioner Simpkins said she wanted to make sure the County was not over-committing. Mr. Dixon said from his conversations, it was their agreement they would jointly go forward.

Commissioner Holt said her questions were pretty much answered. They need to jointly go to the Legislature with palm cards in hand stating things needed from the legislature when approaching them and asking for more money for the Center.

Mr. Dixon said in building the Emergency Operations Center and Sheriff's Office, they have gotten multiple years financing receiving \$10 Million, \$5 Million and \$3 Million in the course of two – three years. He said multiple year funding was something they were learning how to do. They were approaching this like they were going to get the money.

Dr. Woods said at first, they talked about the lease; they have a lease but do not know what was in the lease? (Inaudible) She asked if there where phases set up at the beginning or were they just now discussing phases? She said when he came to the City and the City Commissioners wanted to request they keep the track and to add the pool, she did not remember them talking about the phases and may be phased in somewhere else; that there were expectations from the City as far as funding, etc. She asked what that was decided, was it just right now or was there discussion somewhere else and she missed the meeting?

Chair Green said when they are talking about funding and working together, that is the legislative act of funding, not that they would be responsible for paying monthly bills, etc. It was more of a collaborative effort to go out to ask for the money together.

Dr. Wood understood the difference in the funding but did not want there to be an illusion when they made the agreement about the pool, now they have a lot of questions coming up about the pool, but when they were trying to get the land, these conversations were not had. She wanted to be very transparent with the constituents in what was asked and it seemed people were surprised with talking about liability with the pool.

Mayor Grant said there have been conversations not had, they had not been privileged to regarding the pool, etc. She wanted everyone to know the city commissioners have not been privy to a lease but they want to work together.

Mr. Dixon asked to step back; when they went after this money, they went after it for a community center. The city said exactly what he said, they want to see a track field and a pool. In terms of the lease agreement, the County was waiting for the City to provide the County with the lease agreement and the only terms thus far agreed on was 30 years at a \$1 per year. He said they will get money based on what the design is. If there is not enough money, they will go after more.

Commissioner Holt said she was under the impression that was why they were gathered today, to discuss what want they wanted in and not in to get everything ready.

Mayor Sapp said she felt they were at disadvantage because that was not the instructions they were not given for today's meeting, in fact, they were not given any instructions.

Commissioner Holt said now was the time to go to work and go after this.

Mayor Sapp said they were at a disadvantage coming here with nothing before them.

Commissioner Holt said this was the first step in getting anything done.

Mayor Sapp stated they did have to have a pool; they sold the pool they had so a new school could be built.

Mr. Dixon said he believed it was on the next meeting to hire the design and give them instructions that they were to design for them. At that point, he could let them know that had been done and dates could be set up for them to meet and have architects to bring renderings.

Mayor Sapp said she did not want them to drag their feet on this project, she wanted to see it happen.

Denise Fletcher with the Boys and Girls Club, said they were active in the communities, even though there was no building, they were very active in the schools and it was a much-needed thing. She asked if the \$3.6 Million was awarded specifically to Boys and Girls Club or the Gadsden County Community Center? Mr. Dixon said it was awarded to Gadsden County.

Commissioner Simpkins said her concern was people in the unincorporated areas should have some say as well and will there be meetings to get their input? She said they should have a voice and would there be transportation to the meetings?

Mr. Dixon said he expected, even with the Boys and Girls Club, when they are meeting with kids, to have their own input as to what they want in the club.

Mr. Dixon said this meeting was a start to conversations, not that anyone had agreed on anything, just to make sure they were all inclusive.

Dr. Wood said the reason the question came up about the lease, it was stated that it would be ready by Friday so in her mind it was already being prepared.

Mr. Dennis had a quick video of what the Boys and Girls Club was offering that was shown.

Commissioner NeSmith stepped out at 6:40 pm. and returned at 6:42 pm.

Chair Green asked the Administrator what the next step was.

Commissioner Simpkins asked Mr. Dennis, they have been in extensive conversation and will continue to be so, until she saw what she wanted to see come to fruition.

Commissioner Hinson arrived at 6:47 pm.

She continued and asked in Havana, those numbers were not very high, and felt those numbers would not increase until they provide after-school programs. The target population was not within walking distance. What could be put into place when the program was over, they were able to safely walk home and service more of the children that needed to be serviced?

Mr. Dennis said they needed to find a way to fill the transportation gap; either through fundraising, etc. It was an issue they were working hard to try to combat.

Commissioner Holt said when it came up about transportation, they may could talk with the school board as they have the largest transportation system in the County. They could look for infrastructure funds as transportation was infrastructure. She also mentioned the “Golden Triangle” in Mississippi. She said poor people have a hard time paying attention or doing anything, playing or concentrating, when poor.

Mayor Sapp said this had been a very good, productive meeting and she looked forward to moving forward.

Mr. Dixon said the next step would be a conversation about the lease agreement, the task order to come before Board and community meetings once they architect is chosen. Then they could begin a layout.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, MAYOR SAPP MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 6:58 PM.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

RONTERIOUS GREEN, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JUNE 18, 2024 AT 6:00 P.M., THE
FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Ronterious Green, Chair, District 5
Alonzetta Simpkins, Vice-Chair, District 2
Eric Hinson, District 1
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3, Appeared later
Brenda Holt, District 4
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

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

Amendments and Approval of Agenda

Mr. Dixon requested to pull for discussion item 5.

Request to be added under Awards, Presentation and Appearances:

1a. Presentation on Coping Connections
(Jackie Robinson)

Request to be added under General Business:

12a. Approval of Gadsden County Bicentennial Cycling Event Agreement with TopView Sports

12b. Proposed Lease Agreement with Neighborhood Medical Center

Commissioner Hinson asked if there was anything in the consent agenda that could impact the budget. Mr. Dixon stated the Florida Humanities Summer Reading Grant and the Dollar General Foundation Grant. They are bringing in money.

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

Awards, Presentations and Appearances

1. 1. Proclamation Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week

Chair Green presented the Proclamation to the Probation team.

1a. Presentation on Coping Connections

Mr. Dixon there will be a presentation by Dr. Jackie Robinson.

Dr. Robinson appeared to provide a presentation on Coping Connections. She stated it was a free resource and citizens needed to know about it. She started coping connections to help people connect and cope during difficult times during COVID and it was still available. They help with coping with stress, depression, grief, etc. and how to find therapists.

Dr. Robinson mentioned that on June 27, they will talk about the impact of heat on brain and behavior. She stated she would like help on how to get this information out to citizens.

Commissioner Hinson mentioned mental health and thanked her for taking on this issue. Chair Green stated he had sat at one of her workshops and stated it was phenomenal.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she would like for the PIO to put this on their website.

CONSENT

Chair Green stated they pulled items 5 and 11 for discussion.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH EXCEPTION OF ITEM 11 AND ITEM 5 AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.

2. **Ratification Memo**
3. **BOCC Meeting/Workshop Minutes:**
 - a. May 21, 2024, Regular BOCC Meeting
4. **Approval to renew Digital Service Grant Agreement with the State of Florida Department of Management Services**
5. **Approval of Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement with the State of Florida Department of Transportation**
6. **Approval of Adopt-A-Road Agreement with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. Tau Theta Omega Chapter**
7. **Approval of 2023 Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement between the State of Florida Division of Emergency Management and Gadsden County, Florida**
8. **Approval of Florida Humanities Summer Reading Grant**
9. **Approval of Dollar General Foundation Grant**

10. **Re-Appointments to the Quincy-Gadsden Airport Authority (QGAA)**
11. **Approval to Award ITB 24-06 Rebid W.S. Stevens COVID Shelter to Graybelle Construction, LLC., and Approval to Negotiate the Contract**
12. **Approval of the Agreement for Gadsden County Professional Architectural Consulting Services with Hammond Design Group, LLC.**

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

5. **Approval of Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement with the State of Florida Department of Transportation**

Mr. Dixon stated item 5 was pulled to add some information. They needed to include in the agreement Robert F. Monroe as one of the coverage areas for this traffic agreement. Since they did that, the lump sum number on the fiscal impact would change to \$15,656.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE ITEM 5 WITH AMENDMENTS AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.

11. **Approval to Award ITB 24-06 Rebid W.S. Stevens COVID Shelter to Graybelle Construction, LLC., and Approval to Negotiate the Contract**

Commissioner Simpkins stated she wanted to make sure that they were including for there to not be any change orders coming along. Mr. Dixon stated they anticipated no change orders.

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

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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.org 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 via Zoom using the credentials on the County's website. The Board's meetings are also broadcast live on the Board's Facebook page. Chair Green read aloud the above statement.

Harvey Suber, 216 Talquin Ave Quincy, FL

Mr. Suber appeared and stated they will be hearing a presentation from Kate regarding Animal Services and about a grant for a new facility for domesticated animals.

Kate MacFall, 1206 Walton Dr Tallahassee, FL

Ms. Macfall appeared. She stated needs for their shelter were outstanding. She hoped they would not turn down the grant and the offer has been out there for 6 months.

Commissioner Holt asked if any there were any groups that could apply for the grant that does this. Ms. Macfall stated maybe private ones, less so in rural communities. Commissioner Holt asked if other counties have this grant and Ms. Macfall stated several.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she did receive an email on this. She stated it would be good to take a look at what services they were willing to offer in the email.

Terry Meek, 2465 Arvah Branch Blvd Tallahassee, FL

Mr. Meek stated he was there regarding the re-appointment for Robbie Maxwell. He stated the airport was a class act and appreciated what the county does for them.

Forest Vickery, 1964 Queenwood Dr Tallahassee, FL

Did not wish to speak anymore.

Tracey Stallworth

Mr. Stallworth stated Mr. Dixon could not receive his award Saturday for Juneteenth and he wanted to present it now. He gave a background on Mr. Dixon and his accomplishments as a County Administrator.

Mr. Dixon gave his thanks and stated it was an honor to serve the public.

Chair Green stated they received 135 emails regarding Champs Chance and he will give them to the Clerk.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

12a. Approval of Gadsden County Bicentennial Cycling Event Agreement with TopView Sports

Mr. Dixon presented the above item.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THIS ITEM AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 3-1 TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS OPPOSED.

12b. Proposed Lease Agreement with Neighborhood Medical Center

Mr. Dixon presented this item and stated the County Attorney will take the lead.

Mr. Knowles stated this was brought back as a request from Commissioner Hinson. He stated there has been an issue with Neighborhood Medical Center regarding the HVAC units needing to be replaced/repaired. Part of the problem with making these changes was that Neighborhood Medical Center was only paying \$100 a month. So, that was a lot of money for the county to invest in a building that they were not really receiving any return on investment.

Mr. Knowles stated he met with Mr. William Dillon and also the Executive Director for NMC to discuss a proposed lease agreement. The proposed lease agreement would up the lease amount and increase a security deposit to be commensurate with 12 months' worth of rental payments. Also, the lease has a provision that stated if the tenant vacates the premises in advance of the completion of the lease, the county would be getting money back for making the necessary repairs to the HVAC units.

Mr. Dixon stated they have secured a grant to renovate the building. He asked to keep that in mind.

Commissioner Hinson stated the board did not instruct the County Administrator to move in that direction. They should keep that in mind as well.

Chair Green asked about the original time frame being October. Commissioner Hinson stated the board did not agree to that.

Matt Thro, 31 Egret St. N. Crawfordville, FL

Mr. Thro appeared before the Board. He stated would like to come back and show all the services they offer.

Commissioner Holt stated she was in favor of the lease and wanted to make sure the dates match up. She was under the impression that they received a grant. Mr. Thro stated all FQHCs receive a federal grant that has very strict regulations on what they spend.

Mr. Dixon stated they will have a site visit on the 26th and December 2026 is the contract end date. Commissioner Hinson asked why they have a septic tank; everyone else has a sewer system.

Commissioner Holt stated there would have to be contractors. The scope of work needs to match the grant. Mr. Thro stated they were willing to work with the Board. Commissioner Simpkins asked if they were able to begin since inspection was next week. Mr. Dixon stated he did not see why not. They got the grant in anticipation of them leaving the facility.

Commissioner Simpkins asked about the time frame and Mr. Thro stated they could not fully provide services due to the state of it right now. They could work through whatever time frame they have. They were in design phase right now.

Mr. Dixon stated in the request, it only mentions HVAC. He asked if he was being directed to look at the other issues as well. Chair Green stated, in his opinion, he should. They would need to do the necessary things, especially with the grant.

Chair Green asked if it was possible until they find out about the details to do it month to month. Mr. Knowles stated they had discussed that they did not want to move back in until the AC was fixed. Legally, they could do it month to month.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION FOR 6 MONTH LEASE AND TO FINISH THE AC REPAIRS AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.

CLERK OF COURT

- 13. Updates**
No updates.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

- 14. Updates**
Mr. Dixon stated there will be a renaming ceremony for the Gadsden County Extension Office tomorrow at 10 a.m. He also stated that EMS has a blood drive on the 20th.

Mr. Dixon stated there will be a misdemeanor traffic clinic on June 22. He mentioned that the Housing program will have a homeownership workshop on June 22 at 10 a.m. On August 10, there will be a community job fair from 9-1 p.m.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

15. Updates

Mr. Knowles stated that Commissioner Holt asked about CRA at the last meeting. The County can set up its own CRA. The County selects a separate board or they can delegate themselves. Commissioner Holt asked if he could outline the advantages for having CRA in the County.

Mr. Dixon mentioned the Town of Havana submitted a re-response. Havana asked to combine the \$50,000 and the stipend and give them \$55,000. They also asked to go down from a 3 year to one year for their contract.

Commissioner Hinson made a motion to approve this and Commissioner Simpkins made the second. The board discussed.

Commissioner Holt stated that they do not approve things they have not seen. They could only approve it to come before them first. She had a problem with insurance on vehicles that do not belong to the county. They should have their own insurance.

Commissioner Hinson stated Mr. Dixon preferred to have a vote today. That was why he would go with the vote today. Everybody knows what in the contract already. Chair Green stated they should have a special meeting on this.

Commissioner Hinson rescinded his motion and Commissioner Simpkins rescinded her second.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO HAVE A SPECIAL MEETING CONCERNING THE HAVANA CONTRACT AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

16. Commissioner Eric F. Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson asked if they were able to clear up the issues with the Clerk of Court. Mr. Dixon stated he was not sure how to clear the issues with the Clerk. They have sent information that they requested.

Commissioner Hinson stated on June 29, Alpha Kappa Alpha will be having the Biz Crawl event. He asked Mr. Dixon to have it posted on their website.

Commissioner Kimblin E. NeSmith, J.D., District 3

Commissioner NeSmith stated he had a good meeting with CRTPA and he will be getting with the County Administrator.

Mr. Dixon stated CareerSource could only take care of 11 students for the summer youth program. Commissioner Simpkins asked if the reason was because the students did not qualify. Ms. Burroughs appeared and stated 40 students did not qualify. They were able to officially approve only 11 students.

Mr. Matthews from CareerSource appeared before the Board. He stated they needed to bring in the students to see who qualified and about 15 of them actually showed up with 4 of them being disqualified.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if their county staff reached out to those individuals. Some parents were not really sure why they were doing the other applications. Ms. Burroughs stated it was her understanding that the summer youth coordinator reached out to them. Some parents may have felt uncomfortable sharing more in-depth information in terms of proof of income.

Commissioner Hinson asked Mr. Matthews what were the qualifications. Mr. Matthews stated they need documentation of social security cards and ID. They needed proof of family size and income which they would usually get from their tax return from 2023. If that was unavailable, they would need last month's pay stub and birth certificates to determine household size.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if they got a response regarding Lincoln Drive and Mr. Dixon stated they were on it.

Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt asked about the RFP for legal services. Mr. Dixon stated it will go out again this week. Commissioner Holt stated they needed a lot of help in that department. They need to make sure to have legal representation on all items.

Commissioner Holt asked about fencing for the back parking lot. Mr. Morris appeared and stated they have a design already put together for the fencing.

Commissioner Holt stated citizens need to sign up if they want to have events in parks. That way there would be no problems.

Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, Vice-Chair, District 2

Commissioner Simpkins stated on August 3, she will be requesting setup for her annual back to school drive at Gadsden East Park.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned legal services and stated she never received information regarding the first proposal and who decided that they were going back out. Mr. Dixon stated they started getting calls regarding concerns about the language in the RFP. The Chairman asked for it to be sent back out.

Commissioner Simpkins stated before letters are sent to the Clerk's office on behalf of the Commissioners, those issues need to be addressed. She stated there were 2 letters sent over to the Clerk and it was as though those letters spoke on behalf of the entire commission.

Commissioner Simpkins stated they need to look at the emails from Mr. Thomas. She asked the County Attorney how he addressed those concerns. Mr. Knowles stated it would need to be discussed in an open meeting due to Sunshine Law. Those concerns need to be brought before the board and the board needs to make the appropriate action that they see fit.

Commissioner Simpkins asked the commissioners if they want to request a meeting with the Clerk to address those concerns. Those issues need to be addressed.

Commissioner Holt asked if the attorney received those emails and Mr. Knowles stated yes. Commissioner Holt asked if he had a legal opinion on it. Mr. Knowles asked which issue was she referring to and Commissioner Holt stated any of them. Mr. Knowles wanted to know exactly which issue she was referring to. Commissioner Holt stated she would like a written opinion whenever the Clerk says something concerning the board. She would like a legal opinion on all of them and Mr. Knowles stated ok. Commissioner Holt stated she was used to attorneys saying if they should or should not discuss something. Mr. Knowles stated the contract states when asked, he could provide that information.

Commissioner Holt stated if the Clerk makes a claim about the board, she would like a legal opinion. Mr. Knowles asked if she could provide a specific example of what the Clerk said.

Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Dixon if it was in the new RFP that they have to request an opinion from the attorney before he sees anything that endangers the board. Mr. Knowles stated whenever the board requests something, he brings it back in a timely manner. He stated there were 2 letters sent out that provided legal opinions that never went through legal review. He asked Commissioner Holt to point him to a specific example where the Clerk said something about this board and the board requested for a legal opinion. He has always done that. Mr. Knowles stated if there was something the Board would like him to address, he is always happy, ready, and willing to do that.

Commissioner Holt stated when they were discussing the youth program and about having disabled students, there was nothing said about them not being able to identify children that

are disabled when it comes to employment. There are certain laws that you cannot identify those children. She stated there were certain things that they need to be warned about.

Commissioner Hinson stated the Clerk was not talking about the board, he was just warning them about what transpired.

Commissioner Hinson stepped out 8:42 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson returned at 8:42 p.m.

Commissioner Holt stated they vote on something, put it in writing, it gets across the street and vendors cannot get paid. Some of that was not getting taken care of. She stated the finance department did not belong to the clerk; it belongs to the board.

Commissioner NeSmith stated he would probably contact the attorney first just to see the dynamics of the letter. If it is not directed towards the board, and the board is just included in the email, then it would be an issue for the Administrator to respond to if it was directed towards him. Commissioner Simpkins stated when they receive an email that says Commissioners, then at that point, they are asking a question to commissioners. When they receive these emails that say Commissioners, they need direction on it.

Commissioner Simpkins asked the County Administrator to schedule a meeting with the Clerk.

**COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION FOR A MEETING WITH THE CLERK AND
COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD DISCUSSED.**

Commissioner Hinson stated he would hate for the attorney to give an opinion on everything the Clerk sends out because they may have 3 out of 5 board members that may not like what the attorney's recommendations would be. He makes sure they are legally safe. Commissioner Hinson stated everything he saw he could handle it himself and did not need the attorney.

Mr. Dixon stated one of the emails mentioned him driving county cars home. The question was, "who drives county cars?" They sent them that email with the list and his name was on it. He drives a paid for county car. He stated that they have interpreted it to mean that he has a car and a spare car. He does not have a car and a spare car. When they answered with who drives a county car home, they came back with a hundred questions. He mentioned about them garnishing his wages. He mentioned grants going out at the same time and mentioned that they might need a line of credit to make sure they do not impact the county's budget. The Clerk referred to it as a scheme and crooked. He stated he was not going back and forth with the clerk.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, Chair, District 5

Chair Green stated for everyone to have a great fourth of July and thanked Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority for adopting Strong Road.

Chair Green asked if any government entities will be out July 5th.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if the Property Appraiser's office and the tax collectors will be open or closed. Mr. Dixon stated they tend to move according to the county's schedule.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR THE COUNTY TO BE CLOSED ON JULY 5 AND CHAIR GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.

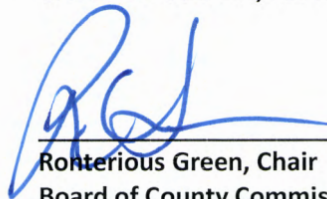
Commissioner NeSmith appeared 7:36 p.m.

Chair Green stepped out 7:37 p.m.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, VICE-CHAIR SIMPKINS DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:02 PM.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

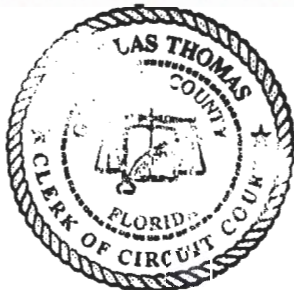


**Ronterious Green, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:



NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk



**AT A BUDGET WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JULY 1, 2024 AT 4:00 P.M., THE
FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Ronterious Green, Chair, District 5
Alonzetta Simpkins, Vice-Chair, District 2
Eric Hinson, District 1
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
Brenda Holt, District 4
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Green called the workshop to order at 4 p.m. Chair Green led into invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Citizens Requesting to be Heard on Non-Agenda Items (3-minutes Limit)

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Chair Green read aloud the above statement.

General Business

1. Department Presentations

- County Administration / Commissioners (Edward J. Dixon)

Mr. Dixon appeared before the Board and stated this will be the second portion of the presentation regarding the budget. He stated Ms. Burgess will appear and lead the meeting.

Ms. Burgess appeared before the Board. She stated this was the third official budget workshop for fiscal year 24-25. They have different departments presenting information.

Ms. Burgess stated they have two other workshops scheduled for August. They have two public hearings in September so they can set the millage rate and adopt the budget.

Ms. Burgess stated the Board has held 16 BOCC Meetings and 20 workshops/special meetings. For fiscal year 2024, they were focused on community engagement, strategic development, and service improvement.

• **Animal Control (Allan Meeks)**

Allan Meeks appeared to provide a presentation on Animal Control. He stated Animal Control was led by 3 Officers.

The Animal Control Department undertakes the crucial task of:

- Feeding
- Cleaning
- Fulfilling citizens' daily requests

The mission of Gadsden County Animal Control is to improve animal and human well-being education, prevention, and humane animal care and control services for the citizens and animals of the 516 square miles of Gadsden County.

Department Goals/Achievements	FY23	FY24
50 percent live outcome with transferring to outside rescue groups	X	
Investigated 23 Bite reports	X	
Investigated 14 Bite reports		X
Receiving 5000 plus calls annually		X
Staff received factory training on crematory.		X
The goal is to maintain or improve a 50 percent live outcome.		X

Mr. Meeks stated they wanted to work on bringing their operating procedures in, they currently do not have any for 2025. They also need to look at updating ordinances.

Mr. Meeks stated Animal control has 3 requests for enhancements. One of them is additional staffing and they also need kennel technicians. He asked for \$100,000 to update the kennels and an additional \$10,000 for Humane Society assistance. They were also looking to add enterprise trucks.

Ms. Burgess stated once they receive estimates, then they can go into the requests by departments. Commissioner Hinson stated it should show everything, they could not spend what they did not have. Chair Green stated all they could do right now was listen to the presentations.

Commissioner Hinson asked what they needed infrastructure wise. Mr. Meeks stated they need to be more accessible to the public. He stated they should consider raising fees.

Commissioner Hinson asked about adoption. Mr. Meeks stated they do not have an adoption policy in place.

• **Extension (Robbie Jones)**

Mr. Jones appeared and gave a presentation on Extension services. These educational endeavors are carried out by a team of joint-funded UF/IFAS and FAMU Agents and Program Assistant, Staff, and an expanding volunteer base.

Mr. Jones went through a recap for fiscal year 2024:

1. Relaunched the Gadsden County Extension Office Greenhouse, which is used as an educational space for adult and youth residents, and also held the first annual plant sale.
2. Expanded the Gadsden 4-H youth programming to encompass in-school programming. This was facilitated through FAMU Extension to hire a full-time 4-H and Gardening Education Program Assistant.
3. The Extension Team has secured \$34,500 in grant funding, \$54,678 in-kind donations, and 2,040 hours of volunteer service towards furthering and expanding our program work.
4. In 2023, we reached 6,285 residents through group learning programming, including webinars, field days, workshops, 4-H programming, Master Gardener programming, and other meetings.
5. Gadsden County Extension produced 116 educational materials including factsheets, articles for internal publications, newsletters and trade journals, presentations, and other creative works that support programming within the county.
6. Started the “Let’s Walk Florida” healthy lifestyle and exercise program for the Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Program.

Mr. Jones went through the FY 25 outlook:

1. Increase programming for Gadsden County residents, with a goal to reach 8,500 residents serviced through group learning programs.
2. Increase collaboration with Gadsden County Government Departments, Community Organizations, and Non-Profits. Example: Working with the new Parks and Recreation Director on park landscape beautification plans.
3. Advancement of Agents within their University Faculty promotion processes, and professional development for Agents and Staff to continue growing and advancing our work with Gadsden County residents.
4. Continue and grow the Extension Greenhouse plant sale and spring event, as well as increase the number of farmers markets at the Gadsden Extension Office.
5. Strengthen and grow our Emerging Farmers initiative to help these farmers with

sustainability of their farming operations.

6. Increase training opportunities based on community needs (i.e. pesticide applicator continuing education classes, produce safety training for local farmers, preparatory workshops for residents needing agriculture and food operator licensing from FDACS, etc.)

Mr. Jones stated they have a goal to reach 8,500 residents.

Department Goals/Achievements	FY23	Was Met	FY24	Was Met
Complete hiring for a fully staffed Extension Department	X	X		
Increase Fleet Capacity for Extension	X	X		
Rebuild the Extension Greenhouse	X	X		
Continue to build out and develop educational programs through the Extension Greenhouse			X	X
Increase 4-H enrollment by 25%	X	X (60.5%)	X	X*
Initiate in-school 4-H educational enrichments programs			X	X

Chair Green stated a lot of people are not aware of the programs offered.

• Information Technology (Kembrew Jackson)

Kembrew Jackson appeared to provide a presentation on I.T.

The mission of the Gadsden County's Office of Information and Technology is to provide reliable and effective technology and telecommunications solutions and services to county agencies to enable them to fulfill their missions in serving the citizens of Gadsden County.

The IT department recognizes the critical role technology plays in our organization's success. Our strategic priorities align with enhancing operational efficiency, safeguarding sensitive data, and ensuring seamless digital experiences for all employees.

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1. Software Licenses: We prioritize investing in software licenses to maintain compliance, access critical tools, and enable productivity. These licenses cover essential applications such as Microsoft Office Suite, project management software, and specialized industry solutions. By ensuring proper licensing, we enhance collaboration, streamline workflows, and mitigate legal risks.
2. Subscription Services: Our commitment extends beyond one-time purchases. We allocate resources for subscription-based services, including cloud platforms (e.g., Microsoft 365,

AWS, Google Workspace), collaboration tools (e.g., Zoom, Teams), and customer relationship management (CRM) systems. These subscriptions empower our teams to adapt swiftly to changing business needs.

Cybersecurity Investments

3. **Threat Prevention:** Cyber threats evolve daily. We allocate funds for robust antivirus software, intrusion detection systems, and firewalls. These defenses safeguard our network, endpoints, and data from malicious actors.
4. **Employee Training:** Our cybersecurity budget includes training programs to educate staff about phishing, social engineering, and safe online practices. Well-informed employees are our first line of defense

Information Technology FY24 Recap:

1. Provided all employees with email addresses for communication.
2. Provide technology support for all County departments.
3. Implemented and updated AV technology.

Information Technology FY25 Outlook:

1. Reduce physical infrastructure and utilize Cloud Services
2. Transition communication services to increase productivity.
3. Empower employees to be able to recognize and avoid threats

Goals/Achievements:

1. Support all Departments Technology Requirements
2. Upgrading and Maintenance of Commission Chamber Technologies
3. Ensure compliance and technology standards
4. Manage Microsoft Licensing and necessary subscriptions

Mr. Jackson stated their request mainly revolves around licensing. They do also have some hardware requests.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if his department was picking up the total cost for the Granicus agreement. She noticed the \$85,000 increase for Granicus maintenance. Mr. Jackson stated each department has a portion to pay but it was primarily coming from the I.T. budget.

• **Library (Lakysa Perkins)**

Ms. Perkins appeared to discuss library services.

Ms. Perkins went through the FY 24 recap:

- Continuing Education/Professional Development:
- CPR training (Staff and Patrons)

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
July 1, 2024 – Budget Workshop

- Sunshine State Library Leadership Institute
- Panhandle Library Access Network Board Member
- American Library Association Conference

Community Partnerships

- Farm Share
- North Florida Legal Services
- Bradwell Mortuary
- Envision Credit Union
- Toys for Tots
- North Florida Legal Services
- Relay for Life
- Career Source Capital Region
- Mu Bookly Sigma C.A.R.E.S

Programming for all Ages

- Family Bingo
- Storybook Carnival
- Library Luau
- Senior Painting
- Cricut Classes
- STEM Program

Ms. Perkins went through their Library goals/ achievements:

<u>DEPARTMENT GOALS/ACHIEVEMENTS</u>	<u>FY 22</u>	<u>FY23</u>
Number of library visits	40,088	45,625
Number of library programs held	221	610
Number of library program attendees	1,668	7,252
Number of total computers (PCs and Chromebooks)	70	100
Number of circulated materials	7,847	21,923

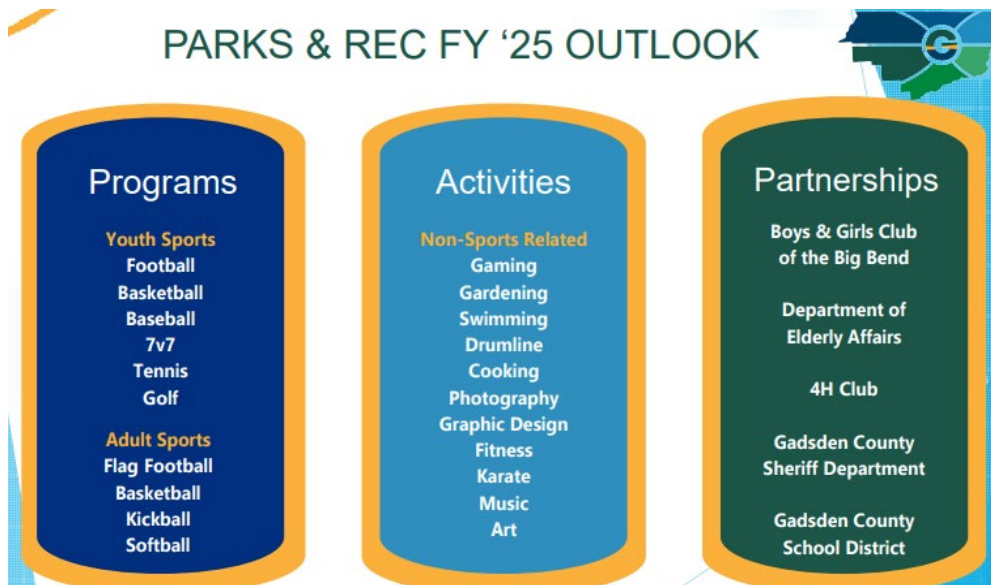
Their fiscal year outlook goals were to expand a hot spot in Chromebook programs and to strength existing programs. Ms. Perkins stated they were asking for increases in their budget. Mr. Dixon stated because of the governor’s DEI program, they were going to be seeing a significant decrease in the amount of money they could use to operate.

Commissioner NeSmith stated he was online.

- **Parks & Recreation (Shawanna Moye)**

Ms. Moye appeared to provide a presentation on Parks & Recreation.

Ms. Moye went through the FY 24 recap:



PARKS & REC DEPARTMENT GOALS

- Hire additional Staff to effectively operate the Parks and Recreation Department
- Complete Extreme Makeover for all county parks including adding security cameras and wi-fi
- Create Master Plan for Fantana Trail Park and Pat Thomas Park
- Attend Parks and Recreation Conferences to network and receive ideas from departments in various cities and states
- Assist with the process and development of the Community Center
- Implement and enhance recreational programs and activities for the youth, adults, and Senior Citizens of Gadsden County
- Create events for the youth, adults, and Senior Citizens of Gadsden County

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned the Parks and Rec Advisory board and Ms. Moya stated she received an email from the advisory board today. Commissioner Simpkins asked for the plan on makeover of the parks. She also wanted to make sure she was included in conversations regarding the Fontana Trail Park.

Chair Green returned at 5:15 p.m.

• Planning & Zoning (Ellen Andrews)

Ms. Andrews appeared. The Planning Division is responsible for the administration and implementation of the County's Comprehensive Plan, the Land Development Code, and the Stormwater Policies and Procedures Manual.

Ms. Andrews went through the FY24 Recap:

- The number of residential development order applications and site plan applications for nonresidential uses have been steady for the past two years
- The Planning Division met with applicants both informally and through preapplication meetings to discuss development projects both small and large and assist them in understanding and applying the County's land development regulations to their projects.
- The Planning Division assisted other County departments in the preparation of grant submittals and other grant related documentation and applied for three planning grants for a Recreation Master Plan, a Public Safety Master Plan for EMS and Fire Station Future Needs and Locations, and funding to assist the county with Evaluation and Appraisal Letter and Comprehensive Plan Amendments.

Ms. Andrews went through the FY25 Outlook:

- The Planning Division anticipates a slight increase in the number of residential development order applications and site plan applications for nonresidential uses in the next fiscal year based on pre-application meetings and other contact with potential applicants.
- The Planning Division will continue to work with other County departments to improve the development process for homeowners and businesses.
- The Planning Division will work proactively with our state and regional partners and other departments within the County to identify and apply for additional funding sources for planning-related activities.

Department Goals/Achievements	FY 22-23 (10/1/2022 – 9/30/23)	FY 23-24 (10/1/2023 – 6/24/2024)
Residential Development Orders	145	108
Immediate Family Exception Splits	6	4
Lot Splits	10	14
Minor Subdivisions	4	4 (in progress)
De Minimus Site Plan Reviews	6	2
Minor Site Plan (Class I) Reviews	1	1
Major Site Plan (Class II) Reviews	2	4
Final Site Plan Reviews	8	2

Commissioner Hinson stepped out at 5:18 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson returned at 5:24 p.m.

• **SHIP/Housing (Sonya Burns)**

Ms. Burns appeared on behalf of the Housing Department. She stated the Gadsden County Housing program is also known as the SHIP program. The main source of funding for SHIP is the Florida Housing Finance Corporation which provides local governments and incentive to create partnerships that produce and preserve affordable housing and multi-family housing. The program was designed to serve very low, low, and moderate-income families. For FY24, Gadsden County received \$441,000 and that was due to unused COVID funds.

Commissioner Simpkins stepped out at 5:29 p.m.

Housing/SHIP FY24 Recap of completed projects:

1. Emergency Repairs – 18 @ \$20,000 ea. with SHIP assistance
2. Down Payment & Closing Cost Assistance – 3 @ \$10,000 ea. (2 currently awaiting closing dates with Smith Thomas Shaw & Colon P.A.)
3. Rehabilitation – 5 @ at minimum of \$80,000 ea. (2 currently under construction)
4. Homeownership Counseling/Education Classes – 63 Attendees with next class beginning July 31st with 13 registered applicants

Commissioner Simpkins returned at 5:32 p.m.

Ms. Burns mentioned the CDBG program. She stated this program will be commencing around the second week of August. All applicants have been selected and approve by the Affordable Housing Committee.

Ms. Burns stated for fiscal year 2025, she is asking for additional funds. She stated they would like a new vehicle, a truck rather than a car. She is also asking for additional funding for more professional growth training and supervisory training. She sated she has been working on launching the tiny homes initiative.

Chair Green asked if they were maximizing their grant opportunities. Ms. Burns stated yes, she was currently working with Ms. Sheree Keeler on two grant opportunities right now.

Commissioner Hinson asked how many grants have they received in the last two years that Ms. Burns wrote. Ms. Burns stated only the Community Development Block Grant for \$750,000. Commissioner Hinson stated Ms. Burns was the most important person in Gadsden County because she deals with housing and he thanked her for her service. Commissioner Hinson asked if Ms. Burns does a walk-through of homes once completed. Ms. Burns stated yes, she does her final inspection.

Commissioner Holt mentioned an issue with rehab due to the grant only covering certain things. She asked about housing education. Some may not know what to do to upkeep their house. Ms. Burns stated that was one of the things that she was going to mention to the County Administrator. They used to have a home maintenance class. Chair Green stated they do need to add more money into this budget.

Commissioner Hinson mentioned Rebuild Florida and thought that was a great idea.

• **Probation (Temeka Rollins)**

Ms. Rollins appeared and provided an overview of Probation. Probation is an alternative sanction imposed by the court in lieu of and/or sometimes combined with incarceration.

The Gadsden County Probation Division provides community-based supervision for clients who have been sentenced by the County and/or Circuit Court to County probation. It is the responsibility of the Probation Officers to assist the clients and provide support in their rehabilitation efforts and to direct them towards successfully completing their probation.

Ms. Rollins stated their mission was to promote public safety through community-based supervision, while inspiring positive change.

Benefits of Probation:

- Taxpayer: Reduces the need for public assistance to families of offenders who may otherwise be imprisoned.
- Victim: Assists in the collection of restitution for crime victims.
- Community: Protects the public and performs community service projects.
- Offender: Presents an opportunity to be a law-abiding and productive citizen

The Probation Division staff is responsible for providing the following services to probationers and the Courts:

- Manages a caseload of misdemeanor, traffic and some felony offenders
- Monitors client's compliance with court conditions
- Assists clients court ordered to perform work program days or community service hours and monitors their compliance
- Prepares and maintains required documentation for case files and documents all counseling sessions

Services and Programs they currently offer:

- The Gadsden County Probation Division offers the Gadsden County Work Program and Vehicle Impoundment services, and referral services for various other court-ordered conditions.
- The Gadsden County Work Program is an alternative to jail and has helped reduce the jail population while allowing defendants to remain in the home and be gainfully employed

Probation Revenue FY23 & FY24		
Sources	FY 2023	FY 2024
Probation Fees/ Community Service Buyout	\$ 42,772	\$ 19,948
Community Service Fees	\$ 920	\$ 240
Vehicle Impoundment Fees	\$ 670	\$ 600
	\$ 44,362	\$ 20,788

Probation Achievements & FY 2025 Outlook:

A) During Fiscal Year 2022-2023, the Gadsden County Probation Division:

- Terminated 301 Probation Cases.
- Monitored an average of 60 current cases per month.
- Verified 179 cases/ clients completed Community Service.
- Verified 7 clients completed the Gadsden County Work Program.

To date (FY 2023/24), the Gadsden County Probation Division:

- Terminated 147 Probation Cases.
- Monitored an average of 50 current cases per month.
- Verified 46 cases/ clients completed Community Service

Ms. Rollins appointed as board member for FL Board of Comm. Corrections

Chair Green stated they were doing an awesome job and he was very happy to hear about the decrease in cases.

Commissioner Holt asked about referrals for the drug program. Ms. Rollins stated not as many. Commissioner Holt asked about local rehab drug programs in the region. She also asked to be provided with stats for repeat offenders.

• **Public Information Office (Leslie Steele)**

Ms. Steele went through an overview of the Public Information Office. The Public Information Office provides information about county government and services to residents and the media. Public Information promotes Gadsden County's brand and image while informing the community through website development, media releases, media relations, e-news and print publications, and social media oversight.

Under administrative direction from the County Administrator, the Public Information Office develops, organizes, and manages a comprehensive public information program for the County; informs and engages the community and other stakeholders regarding activities, services, and objectives of the County by developing and disseminating information through earned media, broadcast media outlets both radio and tv, social media platforms Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and gadsdencountyfl.gov.

The Public Information Office advises and assists county leaders and other department management staff on related public information and community relations activities and responds to requests for information from news media and public records.

The Public Information Office also ensures that the County's policies, direction, and position are accurately communicated to the legislature, governments, and general public.

Public Information Office FY24 Recap:

- The Gadsden County Public Information office has successfully managed and earned media coverage for County events including: the County's Bicentennial yearlong celebration, Black History Month Celebration, EMS Week, Public Works Weeks, Commissioner led events, Amnesty Day, School Resource Fair, Economic Development workshops, Summer Youth Jobs Program, Elderly Affairs events and weekly activities, Gadsden County Holiday Experience, Mental Health Awareness Month, ribbon cutting, groundbreaking, building renaming and bridge naming ceremonies.
- Increased Public Awareness through the many facets of the Love Where You Live Campaign, which will conclude its final advertising and community awareness campaign on September 30, 2024
- County Departments at Work includes, but is not limited to, brand improvement, hosting more community events, and participation with media outlets.
- Managed and successfully oversaw more than 200 public records requests. The Public Information Office receives at least five record requests daily.
- Launched the County's new website. All county meetings can now be viewed on the website.
- Emergency Management response and information distribution for storm-related activities were successful.
- RFQ will be advertised on the County LED message board before the end of the fiscal year.
- The Public Information Office works with elected officials and County lobbyists to secure funding for countywide projects.

Public Information Office FY25 Outlook:

- Gadsden County Working for You Campaign
- Being more visual in the community
- Meeting our Citizens at their Doorsteps

• **Veterans (Michael Jackson)**

Mr. Jackson appeared.

Gadsden County's Veteran Services Office is responsible for filing Veterans Administration benefit claims for Veterans and their dependents.

The Veteran Services Office is consistent in producing over \$2 Million per year in benefit claims.

- There are 1,430,000 Veterans in the State of Florida:
- 1,265,000 male veterans
- 168,000 female veterans.
- Florida has the third largest Veteran population in the nation, behind Texas with 1,534,000 Veterans and California with 1,487,000 Veterans.
- Gadsden County: FY 2023
- 3,100 Veterans
- 2,797 Male Veterans
- 303 Female Veterans
-

Services provided by the veteran services office:

- Filing claims for disabilities due to military services (SC)
- VA Pensions
- Burial Benefits
- Home Loans Certificates
- Educational Benefits
- Discharge Documents (DD 214)
- Hospitalization
- Compensation

Veterans Services FY24 Recap:

- Recertification by FDVA
- Events: 1st Annual Women Veterans Day Celebration
- Veterans Day Veterans Services FY25 Outlook:
- Veterans Emergency Funding
- Purchase wheelchair accessible van
- Veterans outreach programs/events

Chair Green stepped out at 6:43 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson mentioning putting a wrap around the veteran's van that includes their phone number so veterans could know who to contact. He also asked to put on the next agenda item to purchase a wheelchair accessible van.

Commissioner Hinson stated he would like to propose \$25,000 for the veteran's budget.

2. Enterprise Vehicle Leases Analysis (Charles Hayes)

Mr. Hayes appeared to provide an update on the fleet upgrade analysis.

Chair Green returned at 7:01 p.m.

All equity from leased vehicles will be either returned to the county or rolled into the next lease cycle, ensuring continuous value and maximizing the county's investment. The vehicles slated for salvage or trade-in are estimated to have a value of \$130,000. This approach provides financial flexibility for future purchases.

Several vehicles slated for sale are less than five years old but have experienced issues such as needing new transmissions or electrical wiring problems. The goal is to maximize each vehicle's value before depreciation reduces it to less than \$1,000. Notably, most new vehicles depreciate by \$2,000 once titled.

Enterprise is providing quotes on new vehicles to the county at prices below market value. Once the lease is up, these vehicles will be sold at Blue Book value, potentially yielding a funding surplus. For example, the Elder Affairs Department (Senior Citizens) vans experience over 50,000 miles per year and currently need new engines or transmissions, with two out of service. Elder Affairs is borrowing vans from Public Works and the Veterans Service Office.

Another example is the Ford Taurus, a vehicle less than five years old, which has been experiencing electrical issues that cause it not to start. The Fleet Manager has indicated that diagnosing and fixing these problems could be very costly, as confirmed by the local Ford dealership.

Mr. Hayes stated last year, the county purchased 4 new vehicles totaling \$160,000. The City of Chattahoochee's participation in a similar program allowed them to avoid significant lease payments due to the equity in their fleet. While it would be ideal to provide a vehicle for all staff members, this is not fiscally possible now. Each department receiving a vehicle has been tasked with showing a line item in their respective budgets. Past budgets have shown that all vehicles were maintained within the transportation repair and maintenance budget.

The cost savings from upgrading the fleet will be realized over the life of the lease as the fleet operates more efficiently and effectively. By upgrading vehicles before their mileage becomes too high, the county maintains the program's attractiveness and cost effectiveness. The savings from this approach will be spread over the life of the lease, gradually impacting overall costs and operational efficiency. This strategy ensures a more efficient fleet with fewer costly repairs and minimal downtime, ultimately saving both time and money.

They anticipate using regular funding that would have been used to purchase new vehicles and achieving a 30-40% savings in maintenance and repair costs from both Department and Transportation Funds to cover the cost of the new fleet program.

Commissioner Simpkins stated when they agreed to go with the enterprise, she felt like they wrote a blank check and they were not knowing what exactly they were spending. Just for June, they spent \$21,748. She stated they have to take into consideration that some of these vehicles were purchased through grants. She asked if the grants allowed them to lease vehicles. The numbers were not making sense to her. She needed an additional breakdown and she was not seeing where this was saving them money.

Commissioner Hinson asked how it affects the county employees in the fleet department. Mr. Hayes stated they would still need that staff because there were other vehicles.

Commissioner Hinson mentioned the Havana Senior Services van and asked when they were getting that van. Mr. Hayes stated they need to order the vehicle; it could be 4-6 weeks for vans.

Commissioner Simpkins asked about the list of total amounts of vehicles on the lease and the costs. Mr. Dixon stated he will get that information to them. He stated they were spending 300k a year repairing raggedy vehicles.

Chair Green stepped out at 7:27 p.m.

Commissioner NeSmith stated they need the various revenue sources that are available to local government. The county's budget is underfunded.

Commissioner Holt stated she would like to request a copy of investments and interest paid on moneys deposited in banking institutions. She stated they could look at investments and see what interests they do have. She also stated would like for the attorney to look into the possibility of them looking at some investments for the county.

Commissioner Holt stated they did not address economic development in this workshop. The departments need to look at how what they are doing affects their ability to recruit businesses. She also stated to include fencing in the budget. They need to look at no parking signs because they were running into problems.

Commissioner Hinson stated he did not think they need to be advertising for the attorney position. They need to worry about how they can balance the budget first. Commissioner Simpkins stated she did not know it was being advertised.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 7:33 p.m.

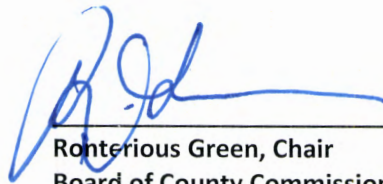
Commissioner Simpkins mentioned the FACTS website showing a special grant of \$50,000 to help eligible communities develop a designation request proposal. It is the Florida Children's Initiative Planning Grant.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
July 1, 2024 – Budget Workshop

Motion to Adjourn

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, VICE-CHAIR SIMPKINS
DECLARED THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED AT 7:35 PM.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA



Ronterious Green, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:



NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk Deputy



**AT A WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON AUGUST 1, 2024 AT 4:00 P.M.,
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Ronterious Green, Chair, District 5, appeared online
Alonzetta Simpkins, Vice-Chair, District 2
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
Brenda Holt, District 4
Eric Hinson, District 1
Roosevelt Morris, Assistant Interim County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Vice-Chair Simpkins called the workshop to order at 4 p.m. Vice-Chair led into invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Citizens Requesting to be Heard on Non-Agenda Items (3-minutes 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.

Vice-Chair Simpkins read aloud the above statement.

Commissioner Holt appeared at 4:02 p.m.

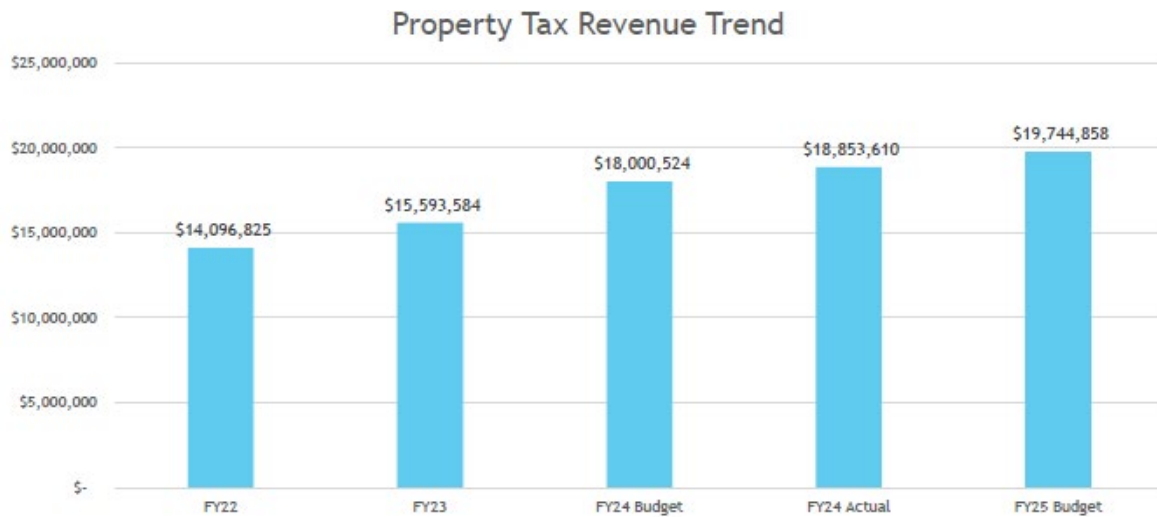
General Business

1. Introduction

Roosevelt Morris, on behalf of Mr. Dixon, introduced Ms. Burgess and stated she would provide a presentation on the budget.

2. Tentative Budget Summary

Ms. Burgess appeared. She went through the property tax revenue trend chart:



Ms. Burgess stated for Fiscal Year 2024, they budgeted 18 million and for Fiscal Year 2025 budget, they were estimated to receive \$19.7 million in ad valorem revenue.

Year	Taxable Property Value	Millage Rate	Estimated Revenue Generated	95% Revenue Budgeted	Additional Revenue Over 9.0000 Millage Rate (Budgeted 95%)
2025	\$2,309,340,165	9.0000	\$ 20,784,061	\$ 19,744,858	
	\$2,309,340,165	9.2500	\$ 21,361,397	\$ 20,293,327	\$ 548,468
	\$2,309,340,165	9.5000	\$ 21,938,732	\$ 20,841,795	\$ 1,096,937
	\$2,309,340,165	9.7500	\$ 22,516,067	\$ 21,390,263	\$ 1,645,405
	\$2,309,340,165	10.0000	\$ 23,093,402	\$ 21,938,732	\$ 2,193,873

The current millage rate is 9.0000 mills. The table above represents the fiscal impact of increasing the millage rate. The column labeled additional revenue over 9.0000 millage rate, represents the additional revenue estimated to be received if millage rate is increased.

Ms. Burgess went through expenditures by fund for their tentative budget that they were requesting for Fiscal Year 2025. The tentative budget for the general fund is at 30.5 million.

Ms. Burgess went through the budget highlights for the Summer Youth Program:

- The Summer Youth Employment Opportunity and Initiative Program is a 6-week work program for youth between the ages of 14 and 19.
- The program provides employment opportunities that provide them with on-the-job training that will help them prepare for the future. With support from local government and businesses, our Gadsden youth can transform their lives and start to develop career dreams.

- The Tentative Budget for FY2025 has been calculated at 315 students, working 20 hours a week, earning \$12 per hour.

Fiscal Year 2025 Outlook:

- Increase the number of participating businesses/departments to 72.
- Apply for grants and seek additional funding from businesses. Note: With consideration of the County's current budget, the County may consider first seeking the Board's direction in order to determine how many students can the County fund for FY25.
- Lastly, utilize volunteers to manage the increased number of students and ensure the quality of training and support services.

Ms. Burgess went through the budget highlight for Elderly Affairs:

The Department of Elderly Affairs was awarded the Older American Act Grant in July 2023. January 2024 new reward amount of over \$250k for the year. Over 50% of the staff that work directly within the OAA Grant, salaries go into each category of the OAA grant (C1) Congregate Meals, (C2) Home Delivered Meals, and (IIB) Transportation and Recreation. The OAA grants is contracted with the Elderly Affairs department for a 5-year period.

The FY2024-25 Elderly Affairs Operations Budget includes:

- Congregate meals & Home Delivered Meals (\$45k)
- Supplemental utility assistance (\$30k)
- Transportation Services
- Various programs and classes for Senior Citizens throughout the year

Ms. Burgess went through the budget highlights for Love Where You Live Campaign:

- Gadsden County is working with our cities, community and civic groups and neighbors to help keep the county clean and litter-free. The campaign includes county-wide programs for recycling, litter control and volunteer opportunities such as Adopt-a-Road and Community Clean ups.

The Love Where You Live Campaign includes the following expenses:

- Advertising
- Signage
- Multimedia
- Community cleaning campaign spearheaded through Public Works, etc.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
August 1, 2024 - Workshop

In FY2024-25, \$100,000 has been allocated in the Tentative Budget for the Love Where You Live Campaign.

Ms. Burgess went through the Economic Development budget highlights.

FY2024-25 Economic Development Outlook:

- The Department will work on implementing the new Economic Development and Resiliency Plan.
- Tentative Budget includes funds to launch a
- marketing/advertising campaign for job/land development opportunities in Gadsden County.
- Quarterly participation in regional or national tradeshows to market Gadsden County to prospective site selectors.
- Funds for continued support for the Economic Development website to assist in supporting businesses and providing information.

Ms. Burgess went on to the budget highlights for Parks and Recreation.

FY2025 Outlook:

- Implement and enhance recreational programs and activities for the youth, adults and Senior Citizens of Gadsden County
- Implement non-Sports related activities such as gaming, gardening, swimming, fitness, etc.
- Research and continue to apply for new grant opportunities that can assist with paying for equipment.
- We are recommending utilizing \$370k in ARPA funds towards funding Parks Upgrades and Expansion.

Description	Fiscal Impact
Increases in salary due to Board approved compensation study.	\$ 500,000
Increase in the County's contribution to Medicaid	\$ 196,163
Enterprise Vehicle Leases and Maintenance (All Departments)	\$ 388,000
Health Insurance Increase (8.4% increase from prior year)	\$ 222,000
Summer Youth Program (FY25 Tentative Budget was calculated 315 students).	\$ 202,000
Tax Collector- Requesting increase due to collection fees being underestimated in FY2024. In addition, the tax collector is a fee officer and is anticipating potentially not collecting enough fees and being in a deficit.	\$ 141,000
Legal services (current contract based on a fix fee of \$7k per month and hourly rate for additional fees). Based on trend, we are anticipating potentially higher expense.	\$ 66,000
Information Technology- increase due to licenses and cybersecurity.	\$ 100,000
Total	\$ 1,815,163

3. Questions

Commissioner Holt stated there was two ways they could run the budget. They could increase taxes or decrease costs. She stated they can bring in revenue by bringing in businesses.

Commissioner Simpkins stated they have to be good stewards of their citizens money. They need to be more fiscally responsible. She agreed with Commissioner Holt on making sure the students from Summer Youth are trained.

Chair Green stated they may need to look at other options with healthcare.

Commissioner NeSmith stated he did not see the list of items they wanted to achieve in the strategic plan. He just saw the overall picture of the plan. They want to make sure their budget is in line with their goals. Commissioner NeSmith mentioned having the cities make a contribution to the Summer Youth Program instead of the Board of County Commissioners having the whole 100%. They were supporting students not just in their county but all municipalities. They cannot continue to carry all of the students on this program.

Chair Green stated to be realistic in what it takes to get the Economic Development department going. It was not going to happen within the first 2 years.

Commissioner Holt stated she was going to ask for \$30,000 for travel for the Planning and Zoning Board. She stated the Planning Commission were making decisions on items coming before them but they have no training in those areas.

Commissioner Simpkins stated Medicaid was a mandatory cost. They need to look at the vehicle lease. It was presented as a savings in maintenance and there has not been a decrease in that. They still have repairs of heavy equipment – that's where major costs come in. The Vehicle lease was affecting everyone's budget.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned health insurance and stated they need a conversation with CHP. They provide a lack of service in Gadsden County. Mr. Morris stated they have already brought Capital Health Plan to the table.

Commissioner Holt stated she would like to see the number of savings that they would have in their maintenance department. Curtis Young appeared and stated they were prepared to cut that budget by 200,000. They have hired a mechanic and that has been helping a lot.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned vehicle maintenance. She asked if on page 3 of the packet, it would have to be going from \$300,000 to \$100,000 then? Mr. Young stated correct, \$150,000.

Commissioner Holt stated they need to look at tax possibilities and millage rate increase.

Commissioner Simpkins stated they need to have an environment where they maintain qualified staff. They need to do exit surveys when people leave the county.

Commissioner Holt stated salaries need to be competitive. She stated she was still asking for a fire station on the east side of the county.

Commissioner Holt stated they need to sit down with Capital Regional. Chief Hood stated 95% of calls were non-emergent.

Commissioner NeSmith stepped out at 5:11 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson appeared at 5:11 p.m.

Commissioner Simpkins stated there are conversations needed to be had – insurance is expensive. They need to be coming to the table.

Commissioner NeSmith returned at 5:17 p.m.

Commissioner NeSmith stepped out at 5:18 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson stated they should fund the volunteer fire fighters.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 5:21 p.m.

Commissioner Holt returned at 5:22 p.m.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 5:22 p.m.

Commissioner Holt returned at 5:23 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson stated what greater infrastructure than fire. He stated Zoom was going in and out – they need to put a premium on Broadband. Commissioner Simpkins mentioned Broadband and stated they were planning a meeting with constituents.

Commissioner Holt stated they need to ask Capital Regional for a meeting and CHP could be there as well.

Chair Green asked when would they have their finalized numbers. Ms. Burgess stated last year, it was mid-August – they keep updating numbers until they get all estimates.

Commissioner Simpkins stated keeping the county clean was important but asked for a breakdown on advertisement for that.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if they were maintaining or exceeding. Ms. Burgess stated it depends on a lot of factors.

Commissioner Simpkins stated they will be having problems if nothing changes.

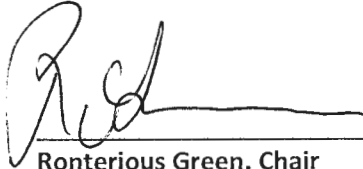
Commissioner Hinson mentioned amendment dealing with homestead – if it happens, will lose funding. It would be great to have no changes and wait until they know what is going to happen first.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned salaries and stated it was not addressed the way she intended.

Motion to Adjourn

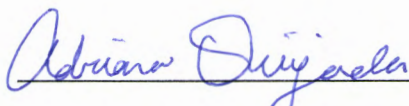
THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, VICE-CHAIR SIMPKINS DECLARED THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED AT 5:45 PM.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

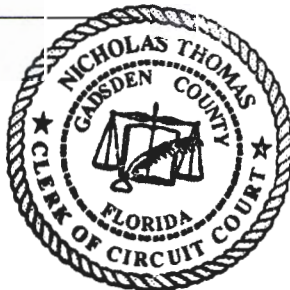


Ronterious Green, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:



NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk



**AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON AUGUST 1, 2024 AT 6:00 P.M.,
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: **Alonzetta Simpkins, Vice-Chair, District 2**
 Eric Hinson, District 1
 Brenda Holt, District 4
 Roosevelt Morris, Assistant Interim County Administrator
 Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
 Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

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

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.

Vice-Chair Simpkins read aloud the above statement.

Public Hearing

1. Introduction

Mr. Morris stated this agenda item seeks approval of millage rate for TRIM notification and set date, time, and place for public hearings to adopt FY 24/25 budget.

2. Approval of Millage Rate for TRIM Notification and Set the Date, Time, and Place for the Public Hearings to Adopt the Fiscal Year 2024/25 Gadsden County Budget

Vice-Chair Simpkins asked if there were any comments from citizens and there were none.

Ms. Burgess appeared and went through the item and the options they have.

1st public hearing – September 10, 2024 - 6 p.m.

2nd public hearing – September 24, 2024 - 6 p.m.

July 1 taxable value provided by PA's offices for operating purposes was \$2,309,340,165 which is \$214,494,560 more than last year's final gross taxable value of \$2,094,845,605.

Mr. Knowles stated if they set the millage rate today, they could always lower it but you cannot raise it.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
August 1, 2024 - Special Meeting

Commissioner Holt made a motion for 9.5 millage rate (option 3). The motion died due to lack of second.

Commissioner Holt stated if the County Attorney was correct, if they need to raise it later, they will have problems. They can always bring it back down.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE 9.0 MILLAGE RATE (OPTION 1) AND CHAIR GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 3-1 TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER HOLT OPPOSED.

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION FOR THE PUBLIC HEARINGS TO BE SCHEDULED ON SEPTEMBER 10 AND SEPTEMBER 24 AND CHAIR GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.

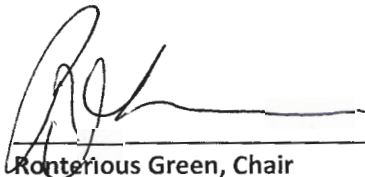
The County Attorney mentioned the storm approaching. They drafted a resolution to place the county into a state of emergency and asked for a motion to approve.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 24-031 AND CHAIR GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.

Motion to Adjourn

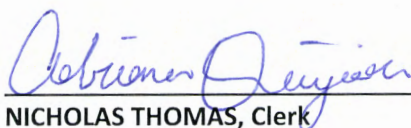
THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, VICE-CHAIR SIMPKINS DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:15 PM.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA



Ronterious Green, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:


NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON AUGUST 6, 2024 AT 6:00 P.M.,
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Ronterious Green, Chair, District 5
Alonzetta Simpkins, Vice-Chair, District 2
Eric Hinson, District 1
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
Brenda Holt, District 4
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Green called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. Chair provided invocation and led into Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Hinson appeared at 6:02 p.m.

Amendments and Approval of Agenda

Mr. Dixon stated to pull items 2 and 21.

Mr. Dixon requested to add under Consent:

21a. Approval of Spooner Road – Change Order 01

**COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED AND
COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.**

Awards, Presentations, and Appearances

1. Presentation on Disaster Preparedness for Small Business

Mr. Davis appeared before the Board and stated he was representing the Florida Disaster Declaration for Severe Storm, Winds, and Tornadoes. He stated he was here for the economic injury loan. It deals with financial damage. Their deadline is March 7, 2025.

Commissioner Hinson asked if they were a private company. Mr. Davis stated no, this was a small business administration.

Chair Green asked if they could assist with the tornado that happened in May. Mr. Davis stated this disaster declaration is for May 10, which deals with the tornado.

2. Recognition of Diane Williams-Cox

Item pulled.

Consent

Commissioner NeSmith asked to pull items 7, 8, 9 and 10.

Commissioner Simpkins asked to pull items 16, 18, 19, and 20.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH THE ABOVE EXCEPTIONS AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

3. Ratification Memo

4. BOCC Meeting/Workshop Minutes:

- a. May 11, 2024, Emergency Meeting
- b. May 30, 2024, 1st Budget Workshop
- c. June 4, 2024, Regular BOCC Meeting
- d. June 11, 2024, 2nd Budget Workshop
- e. June 12, 2024, Boys and Girls Club Workshop
- f. June 18, 2024, Regular BOCC Meeting
- g. July 1, 2024, 3rd Budget Workshop

5. Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Liens – State Housing Initiative Partnership Program (SHIP)

6. Approval and Signatures for Satisfaction of Special Assessment Lien

~~7. Approval of Transportation Agreement between the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners and Big Bend Transit, Inc. to Provide the Gadsden Express Services from October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2027~~

~~8. Approval of Transportation Agreement between the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners and Big Bend Transit, Inc. to Provide the Gadsden Connector Bus Service from October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2027~~

~~9. Approval of Transportation Agreement between the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners and Big Bend Transit, Inc. to Provide the Quincy Shuttle Bus Service from October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2027~~

~~10. Approval of Transportation Agreement between the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners and Big Bend Transit, Inc. to Provide the Havana Shuttle Bus Service from October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2027~~

11. Re-appointment to the CareerSource Capital Region Board

12. Public Officials Bond Review

- 13. Approval of the revised Lease Agreement between the Gadsden County BOCC and the St. Hebron AME Church and St. Matthews Primitive Baptist Church as owners of a 2.0 +/- acre parcel of land to be used as a County Park**
- 14. Approval of Elderly Affairs to become Host Agent for National Caucus and Center on Black Aging Senior Community Service Employment Program**
- 15. Approval of Supplemental Agreement South Adams Street Sidewalk**
- 16. Approval of Separation Agreement**
- 17. Approval of Interlocal Fire Agreement with the Town of Havana**
- 18. Approval of the Contract with Graybelle Construction, LLC. Pursuant to the Award of ITB 24-06 Rebid**
- 19. Approval of Change Order 1 to the Contract with Graybelle Construction, LLC. Pursuant to the Award of ITB 24-06 Rebid**
- 20. Approval of the CDBG-CV Grant Letter of Financial Commitment**
- 21. Approval of Blue Line Ordinance Letters**
- 21a. Approval of Spooner Road – Change Order 01**

Items Pulled for Discussion

- 7. Approval of Transportation Agreement between the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners and Big Bend Transit, Inc. to Provide the Gadsden Express Services from October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2027**

Commissioner NeSmith stated when he read the information in the booklet, he saw that item 7,8,9, and 10 were an expense to the county. Mr. Dixon stated items 7 and 8 are county funded. Items 9 and 10 are through a match with Star Metro. It is a reimbursement program for those matches.

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

- 8. Approval of Transportation Agreement between the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners and Big Bend Transit, Inc. to Provide the Gadsden Connector Bus Service from October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2027**

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

9. Approval of Transportation Agreement between the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners and Big Bend Transit, Inc. to Provide the Quincy Shuttle Bus Service from October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2027

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

10. Approval of Transportation Agreement between the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners and Big Bend Transit, Inc. to Provide the Havana Shuttle Bus Service from October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2027

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

16. Approval of Separation Agreement

Commissioner Simpkins stated this item should be under general business not consent. She asked the County Attorney if he was a part of the conversation regarding this agreement. Mr. Knowles stated he received it about 2 weeks ago but it came signed already by Ms. Daniels. He did not know how it got to this point.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she wanted to make sure they were not setting a precedent. Mr. Dixon stated anytime a senior employment changes hands, there ought to be some type of separation agreement. In his experience, this was how it was handled.

Commissioner Simpkins did not think they were being fiscally responsible. She stated the Attorney was not a part of this, it was already signed when he got it. Commissioner Simpkins stated she has not been on this board for 2 years yet, and this was the third time they were paying out in this small county as it relates to employees and their release.

Commissioner Hinson stated it was great to table this. They need to meet and discuss this. Commissioner Holt stated this was not the only time they paid severance pay and it will not be the last.

Chair Green stated this could cost them more if they decide to go in a different direction.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE THIS ITEM AND CHAIR GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 2-3 AND THE ITEM WAS NOT PASSED. COMMISSIONER HINSON, COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS, AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH OPPOSED THE MOTION.

18. Approval of the Contract with Graybelle Construction, LLC. Pursuant to the Award of ITB 24-06 Rebid

Commissioner Simpkins asked the Attorney if the amount was standard. Mr. Knowles stated this was ensuring completion and if they do not, the insurer will pay the county for non-completion within the time frame. He stated this was standard. Mr. Morris stated it was a requirement for the performance

bond. Commissioner Simpkins stated any task/change orders need to come before the board for approval.

Commissioner Holt asked about the deadline of the grant and Mr. Morris stated they have already requested an extension.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if they were confident to complete the project by the deadline. The representative from Graybelle stated they were confident.

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE ITEM WITH CHANGES THAT ALL CHANGE ORDERS COME BEFORE THE BOARD, ABOVE THE 1.6, AND TO ADD THE PERFORMANCE BOND. COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

19. Approval of Change Order 1 to the Contract with Graybelle Construction, LLC. Pursuant to the Award of ITB 24-06 Rebid

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

20. Approval of the CDBG-CV Grant Letter of Financial Commitment

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

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 Green read aloud the above statement.

MT Thomas, 363 E Crawford St

Mr. Thomas appeared before the Board. He stated he was the Executive Director for AMI Kids Gadsden. They are an after-school program where they offer services for youth who are in a prevention program.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if they serve students that have encountered the law. Mr. Thomas stated they welcome them all.

Amy Williams

Ms. Williams appeared before the Board and stated she was here to support Kate McFall.

Kate McFall, 1206 Walton Dr. Tallahassee FL.

Ms. McFall appeared before the Board to discuss animal services. She stated she came to say thank you to the Commissioners. Gadsden County's Animal Services have made a significant progress in recent months. She hoped they will consider to accept the \$90,000 from Jacksonville Humane.

Public Hearing

22. (Quasi-Judicial) – WSN Construction Site Improvements Conceptual/Preliminary Site Plan (SP 2024-01)

Ms. Andrews appeared before the Board and went through the item. WSN Construction, LLC (applicant), represented by Joseph Legacy (Dewberry Engineering, Inc.), agent, has submitted a site plan review application for a construction office and storage area for WSN Construction LLC. Proposed buildings for the site are an office and pole barn. The site located on Florida-Georgia Parkway (State Road 63/ U.S. Highway 27) has historically been vacant and is designated as Commercial on the Gadsden County Future Land Use Map.

Michael Freeman appeared before the Board. Chair Green asked if he was willing to make the adjustments that the Planning Commission requested. Mr. Freeman stated yes.

Commissioner Holt asked what the development was for and Mr. Freeman stated it was for a general construction office.

Chair Green stepped out at 7:42 p.m.

Chair Green returned at 7:44 p.m.

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

23. (Quasi-Judicial) – Talquin Electric Cooperative (TEC) Mutual Aid Staging and Coordination Facility Gadsden County Conceptual/Preliminary Site Plan (SP 2024-02)

Mr. Dixon presented the above item and Ms. Andrews appeared before the Board. Talquin Electric Cooperative, Inc., represented by Woods Waddle has submitted a site plan review application to construct a Mutual Aid Staging and Coordination Facility. Proposed buildings for the site are a 5,000 square foot office building, a 10,000 square foot training building, and 4,600 square feet of future expansions. The site located at 30270 Blue Star Highway (U.S. Highway 90) has historically been and is currently used for Utilities and is designated as Agriculture-3 on the Gadsden County Future Land Use Map. The property use designated by the Gadsden County Property Appraiser is "Utilities," and this project intends to maintain that use.

Woods Waddle appeared before the Board. Chair Green asked if they were willing to abide by the requests from the Planning and Zoning Commission. Mr. Waddle stated yes, they have already begun to adjust their plans accordingly.

Commissioner Holt asked about homes near the property and Mr. Waddle stated there were none.

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

24. Approval of Resolution 202-030 and Budget Amendment for FY 2023-2024

Mr. Dixon presented the above item.

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

General Business

25. Seeking Board Direction Regarding RFP 24-05 Legal Services

Mr. Dixon went through the item. He stated the staff has opened the four proposals received, which were from The Law Offices of Craig J. Brown, PA, Williams Law Group, Clayton Knowles, QLLC, and Law Office of John Reid.

Chair Green stated they are currently on a month-to-month contract now; they need to have an open discussion publicly and have a special meeting. Commissioner Holt stated they should look over the package and each Commissioner choose their top 2 and submit it in writing to staff.

Chair Green stated he would like to interview all 4. That was his personal opinion. Commissioner NeSmith stated he would like to also interview all 4 candidates. He asked if there were preset questions that they already have. Chair Green stated yes, they could also add their own questions.

Ms. Burroughs appeared before the Board. She recommended that they submit their questions so they could add those to the standard list of questions.

Mr. Knowles stated the RFP has a scoring criteria in it. To avoid any appearance of impropriety, he suggested that they go with what they have in the RFP. Commissioner NeSmith stated he has not had a chance to look at the RFP. He asked to get a copy of the process.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she had a problem with this – she did not know what was on the RFP; she was not in the loop. Based on the scoring, is there any room for interview questions? She stated this was not a sense of emergency, she wanted time to go through that information and each candidate's proposal.

Chair Green asked if they notified firms that did not meet the procurement policies and Mr. Dixon stated yes.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if the information in the RFP came from a policy that already existed. Mr. Knowles stated he was not in the loop. Mr. Dixon stated they created the RFP based on their policy and suggestions.

Commissioner Holt stated they have done interviews on administrator and law firms. Those categories were the same on experience.

Commissioner Hinson stated they used to have workshops to get things together and then they bid out. He stated they should have a workshop after the budget hearing in September.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she agreed with Commissioner Hinson, budget is most important right now. This was not an emergency. She did not have a clear understanding of how this process will work and still has questions on this item. There are things more pressing and they need to slow down. They have time to go over this information.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO LOOK OVER THE INFORMATION AND SET PRIORITIES AND MEET AND DECIDE ON A LAW FIRM WITHIN 30 DAYS. COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 TO APPROVE THE MOTION. COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS AND COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.

26. Approval of Resolution 2024-028 Grant Budget Amendment for FY2024

Mr. Dixon presented the above item and went through the budget amendments.

Commissioner Hinson asked the County Administrator about Iron Bridge Road. Are they re-surfacing the whole area? Mr. Dixon stated this was just adding some money. Curtis Young appeared. Mr. Dixon stated he will give him more information in the comments section.

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

27. Approval of Budget Amendment for FY 2023-2024 – Summer Youth

Mr. Dixon presented.

Chair Green stated this is a bill they need to pay; it was not necessary to spend 20 minutes discussing this. They would need to make necessary adjustments in the future.

Commissioner Hinson asked how many students they hired and Mr. Dixon stated 300.

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

28. Approval of Policy Number 2024-003; Uniform Policy and Procedures for Employees Not Provided with Custom Uniforms

Mr. Dixon presented the above item.

Chair Green asked about the cost and Mr. Dixon stated \$3,500.

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

29. Approval of Health Insurance Rates

Mr. Dixon presented the above item.

Commissioner Simpkins asked who was the insurance committee. Mr. Dixon stated all of the constitutionals and a staff member. Commissioner Simpkins asked if they even presented other insurance companies so they could look at quotes. Mr. Dixon stated the Sheriff went with UnitedHealth, but Capital Health Plan has all the doctors they were used to. The Sheriff was considering going back with CHP.

Chair Green asked about the deadline to approve the contract – he would like to see comparisons of insurance companies. It could be more competitive if they consider others. Mr. Dixon stated it would be effective 10/1/2024 and due 9/15/2024.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she was requesting a meeting with CHP. Gadsden County needs to demand service because they are providing insurance for all government entities here. Chair Green mentioned having a workshop with other entities that are utilizing their services as well.

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

30. Approval to Accept Donation of Property

Mr. Dixon presented the above item.

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

Clerk of Court

31. No Updates

County Administrator

32. Mr. Dixon stated they met with the DOT District Secretary. They had a conversation about the development of bigger roads to get to open spaces. He mentioned that Cane Creek Bridge has now been funded to be repaired.

Commissioner NeSmith stepped out at 9:12 p.m.

County Attorney

33. Mr. Knowles thanked everyone for condolences on his uncle's passing and gave funeral information.

34. Discussion Items by Commissioners

Commissioner Eric F. Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson asked when does Open Enrollment end and Mr. Dixon stated tomorrow.

Commissioner NeSmith returned at 9:15 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson stated he was hosting the Community Resource fair.

Commissioner Kimblin E. NeSmith, J.D., District 3

Commissioner NeSmith asked the County Administrator what happened with their July trip to Golden Triangle. Mr. Dixon stated he will have an answer for him.

Commissioner NeSmith asked the cost to repair the Cane Creek bridge and Mr. Dixon did not have an answer yet.

Commissioner NeSmith asked Mr. Dixon if he has sent the list of all opportunities to enhance their revenue. Mr. Dixon stated they submitted the revenue opportunities to him and it was in the budget.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if they have a schedule to service all of their county properties. Mr. Dixon stated they do not have a schedule yet, they have re-tooled facilities and moved them under the Building Official.

Commissioner NeSmith asked to have a workshop on severance packages. Mr. Knowles stated as long as it was public.

Commissioner NeSmith asked about Aspalaga Road. Mr. Dixon stated it was not on the list.

Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt mentioned parking in the back and fencing. Mr. Dixon stated they have looked at the design and they have a proposal. They want to light the parking lot up and add cameras.

Commissioner Holt stated she would like for item 13 be brought back for discussion because it was a lease. She stated she failed to ask some questions.

Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2

Commissioner Simpkins thanked everyone for the back-to-school drive.

Commissioner Simpkins requested that at each meeting, presentations from departments with updates. On a quarterly basis, she would like to have the actuals on the budget.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned Scott Town Park. She wanted to know where they were at with that park and if the Parks and Recreation Board have met.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned Dog Town Road. Curtis Young appeared and stated it was at 60% design.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned the Neighborhood Clinic. Mr. Morris stated they have received bids. There are 5 units needing to be replaced. He needed to consult with budget to make sure they have the funding.

Commissioner Simpkins asked about the policy as it relates to the advertised salary and then the hiring salary. Mr. Dixon stated they try to advertise at the policy based on the new comp plan that

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
August 6, 2024 - Regular Meeting

they have but even with that, they found that the selections they were getting are just not there. They certainly have had to come back and review what they were paying people.

Commissioner NeSmith stepped out at 10:01 p.m.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5

Chair Green asked for an update on the Boys & Girls Club. Mr. Dixon stated they have not yet signed the lease agreement. Mr. Knowles stated they have a meeting on Thursday with Mr. Nixon and Mr. Roberts to discuss the lease agreement and work through the concerns that the county has.

Commissioner NeSmith returned at 10:02 p.m.

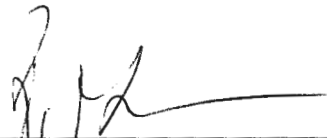
Chair Green asked for the citizens traveling on Spooner Road to be careful as they are making updates and changes to that road.

Chair Green mentioned printing and stated there was a lot of paper being used for the agendas. He stated they are in a century where technology is very savvy and they should start utilizing iPads or laptops.

Motion to Adjourn

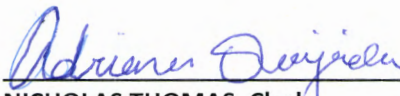
THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:08 PM.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

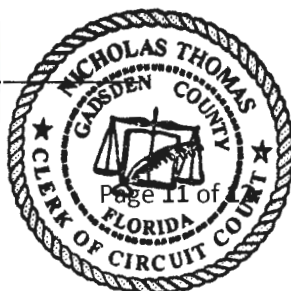


Ronterious Green, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:



NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk



**AT A SPECIAL CODE ENFORCEMENT HEARING HELD IN
AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON AUGUST 8,
2024 AT 11:00 A.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING
WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: **Paul Arnold, Magistrate**
 David Israel, Code Enforcement Office
 Ellen Andrews, Growth Management Director
 Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk

Magistrate Paul Arnold appeared. The respondent is Alicia Bopp and he was going to hear from the county first.

David Israel appeared and stated he was here concerning zoning issues with Alicia Bopp. They contacted Ms. Bopp and she came in to speak with the zoning department. She refused their recommendations. Mr. Arnold asked what days he reached out to Ms. Bopp Mr. Israel stated February 26, 2024 and personally went to the property on May 30, 2024. She stated she was tired of being harassed by the county. A violation was sent on June 25, 2024.

Ellen Andrews appeared to give her testimony as a county witness. She first met with Ms. Bopp in response to the initial notice and they spoke about the location of her rescue. It was in a residential subdivision. She had the opportunity to apply for a special exception use. She is running an animal rescue from her home and has outside kennels.

Mr. Israel stated for the record, the violation code is under chapter 4, subsection 4202, D5 under commercial uses class II.

Alicia Bopp appeared and provided her opening statement. She stated she would like to address the special use exception. They were told by the county, in their own words, that they would never be permitted a special exception use. That was why they did not pursue that avenue.

Ms. Bopp gave a background on Champs Chance. She started it 2 and a half years ago and up until 5 months ago, the county never knew they existed. There was a personal issue with a neighbor who did not have any issues with their dog rescue until recently. Her closest neighbor was the first one to write a letter of support for them. She mentioned that they do not host events on their property. On May 10, they took a hit from a tornado and had to foster their dogs. They continue to plead for fosters.

Ms. Bopp mentioned the violation code and stated they are not classified as a veterinary hospital. She stated 2 weeks was not enough to prepare for a life changing hearing. They are thousands in debt and everyone is a volunteer. This is a non-profit rescue. They have tried numerous to work with the county.

Susan Evans, testimony witness appeared. She stated she was a volunteer but had to stop due to her health. Ms. Bopp was helping Gadsden County and they should give her a chance and help her.

Cheryl Sadler appeared. She stated Champs Chance did not qualify under the state definitions of the violation code. From her understanding, Ms. Bopp has asked numerous times what she needed to do to prepare. Several of the notices that the county left for her were illegally insufficient and it did not even have the code violation.

Mr. Arnold stated if Ms. Sadler was an attorney, she could talk about law and procedure but if not, she could not represent Ms. Bopp in that way. He asked to keep her testimony personal and just include her opinions.

Alexis Hilbury appeared and stated she was a volunteer. She stated she felt like she was doing something right in the community.

Bonnie Foschi appeared. She did not think Ms. Bopp was breaking any rules. Dawn Holland appeared and gave her testimony as a witness. Mr. Ramos appeared and explained how Champs Chance helped his mental health.

Shelby Culberson appeared and stated she was a volunteer. She did not understand how this rescue could be classified as an animal hospital considering all the medical bills. She asked to allow the rescue to remain open. Trisha Brooks appeared and stated she rescued a dog from Champs Chance. She has got more involved with Champs Chance.

Mr. Arnold stated they are operating as a business. They were clearly providing valuable services to the community and it sounded like their main argument was that they are not a veterinary office or animal hospital. It does say with outside kennels and that was what he will be considering when looking at his ruling. He suggested for Ms. Bopp to find an attorney and to submit a brief to address permissible use. Mr. Arnold asked if she has applied for a special exception and Ms. Bopp stated she did not. Ms. Bopp stated she asked and asked what she needed to do to prepare for today.

Mr. Israel stated he would like for Ms. Bopp to discontinue business at her residence until they can resolve it with the Zoning department.

Mr. Arnold asked if the county advised them of the special exception use and Ms. Andrews stated yes, she gave her a copy of special exception use application.

Mary Lansley stated it was clear they were running a business. She stated there was noise and dogs roaming neighborhoods. Another neighbor appeared and stated issues with loose dogs. Ms. Bopp stated they need time to find somewhere else. She stated she has asked Commissioners to help with finding land. She was requesting a denial of cease-and-desist letter.

Gadsden County Special Code
Enforcement Hearing – August 8, 2024

Mr. Arnold stated he will make a written ruling. He asked Ms. Bopp to create a brief outlining their request. He stated it was imperative to apply for a special exception use. He will allow 45 days to make the final ruling and 10 days for a brief. He asked the county to provide a proposed order.

Mr. Arnold adjourned the hearing at 12:17 p.m.

**AT A WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2024 AT 4:00
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Ronterious Green, Chair, District 5
Alonzetta Simpkins, Vice-Chair, District 2, appeared online
Eric Hinson, District 1
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
Brenda Holt, District 4
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Roosevelt Morris, Assistant County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Green called the workshop to order at 4 p.m. and led into invocation and pledge of allegiance.

Citizens Requesting to be Heard on Non-Agenda Items (3-minutes Limit)

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Chair Green read aloud the above statement

General Business

1. Introduction

Mr. Dixon introduced the workshop and stated they were presenting the balanced budget. He stated all of the budget team has COVID, so he will be the one presenting tonight.

2. Budget Workshop #6 Presentation

Mr. Dixon stated they have begun mobilizing Stevens School and also there will be the final 2 needed changes for EMS.

Mr. Dixon stated Mr. Lewis has launched his website GadsdenBiz.com. It was nice and easy to operate. He went through the pie chart from the presentation showing expenditure by funds of the budget. The biggest was the general fund and fine & forfeiture.

Mr. Dixon went on to the general fund revenue and stated it was up to about 30 million dollars. He mentioned that general fund comprises 48% of their budget and fine & forfeiture fund is 14%. They also had debt service funds totaling \$2,997,322. Mr. Dixon went through the major revenue projections in general fund.

Mr. Dixon went on to budget highlights. He mentioned public safety and stated they have continued their investment in the sheriff's department, EMS, and fire. EMS and Fire have outgrown funding sources. They will be looking at the re-organization of funding those services.

3.28 million dollars in remaining ARPA funds have been recommended. A fund shift will be initiated as a "Revenue Replacement" for allowable usage for "fiscal stability" for Governmental services. The remaining balance is not currently under contract, incumbered, or spent, to avoid any loss in funding per ARPA guidelines and requirements.

Mr. Dixon mentioned opioid program and stated they have made a change to where only 5% of the money could be used for salaries.

Mr. Dixon stated there was a request from the Clerk for cybersecurity in the amount of \$113,757.57. They have requested information from the Clerk for that.

3. Questions

Chair Green asked about the funding source to cover the healthcare position. Mr. Dixon stated they are looking at some general revenue and savings from ARPA. Chair Green asked about the timeframe for cyber security for the Clerk. Mr. Dixon stated the clerk will send information over and I.T. will review it quickly and move on with it.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned the 5% with opioid and stated the ARPA funds would take them through one year. She asked what was the plan from that point on. She asked if they made those changes in the current budget. Mr. Dixon stated they did make those changes in the current budget and stated he had no answer yet for the future, they were just informed of that last week. They want the opioid program so they will be coming back with further ideas.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned the Clerk's request and asked why it was not in general funds. Mr. Dixon stated it was just where they had money.

Commissioner Hinson appeared at 4:35 p.m.

Commissioner Holt stated they may have too many fire stations. If they were trying to run a system that was not working, maybe it was the locations of where they are.

Chair Green stated they should schedule a workshop regarding ARPA funding.

Commissioner Simpkins asked about the budget itself. When preparing the budget, do they take a look at the actuals spent in previous years prior to the actual request of this year? Mr. Dixon stated they try to, if the information is available to them.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned the PIO department and stated the actual that was spent up until the end of last month was \$10,000 but they were still allocating \$100,000 in there. She would like to know what that additional \$90,000 would be spent on. Mr. Dixon stated they were moving the Love Where You Live program and associated programs between one or two funds, not just PIO.

Ms. Steel stated the PIO office used to be responsible for all advertising and marketing. The Clerk's office will change the billing and has now been billing each department individually.

Commissioner Hinson stepped out at 4:54 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson returned at 4:55 p.m.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned the vehicle maintenance cost. She stated when the lease was presented, it was said that it would decrease cost. However, there is not a decrease.

Mr. Dixon stated they still have 37 vehicles needed to be maintained. Commissioner Simpkins asked the total vehicles being leased and Mr. Dixon stated 34. Commissioner Simpkins asked for a breakdown on this.

Chair Green stepped out at 4:56 p.m.

Chair Green returned at 5:00 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson asked how much was put in for marketing for Gadsden County. Ms. Steele stated \$100,000 in the public information budget.

Chair Green asked about CRA and their conversations. Mr. Dixon stated have spoken with the Property Appraisers and they were waiting on correspondence from revenue.

Commissioner Hinson stated they need more EMS in the county. Mr. Dixon mentioned bringing in a consultant. Commissioner Hinson mentioned putting a library in Midway.

Commissioner Holt stated she was requesting a grant writer and coordinator. Commissioner NeSmith asked if they have a grants department and Mr. Dixon stated they have a grants coordinator.

Commissioner Hinson stated each department head should be able to go out and seek grants; that can help strengthen their budget and increase budget. Commissioner Hinson stated he thought Integrity was going to be a grant writer. They need a workshop on that to see how much they have produced.

Commissioner Holt stated they should not have 300 students in the Summer Youth program. She stated that 100 students that do well is a lot better than 300 students that do not do well.

Motion to Adjourn

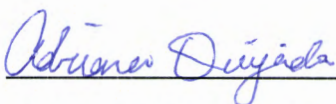
THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN DECLARED THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED AT 5:41 PM.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA



RONTERIOUS GREEN, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:



NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk



AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2024 AT 6:00
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

Present: Ronterious Green, Chair, District 5
Alonzetta Simpkins, Vice-Chair, District 2
Eric Hinson, District 1
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
Brenda Holt, District 4
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

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

Amendments and Approval of Agenda

Mr. Dixon stated to pull item 18 and add item 19a - Board Direction Regarding RFP 24-05 Legal Services.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED AND
COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.**

Awards, Presentations and Appearances

Pulled item 1.

1. Recognition of Diane Williams-Cox

CONSENT

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

2. Ratification Memo

3. BOCC Meeting/Workshop Minutes:

- a. August 1, 2024, Budget Workshop
- b. August 1, 2024, Special Meeting

4. Approval of SHIP Annual Report and Certification

5. Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Liens – State Housing Initiative Partnership Program (SHIP)
6. Approval and Signatures for Satisfaction of Special Assessment Lien
7. Approval to Authorize the Clerk's Office to Process Stryker Invoices
8. Approval of the E911 2024 Fall Rural County Grant Application for Eventide NexLog DX Voice Recorder Annual Support, Warranty, and Maintenance
9. Approval of Big Bend Jobs & Education Council, Inc. d/b/a CareerSource Capital Region, Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners, Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners, Leon County Board of County Commissioners, and Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners Agreement
10. Approval of AE Engineering, Inc, Task Orders for Bus Shelter Design: Gadsden Express Bus Stop Upgrades
11. Approval of AE Engineering, Inc, Task Orders Threatened and Endangered Species Evaluation on Joe Adams Road
12. Approval of AE Engineering, Inc, Task Orders for Traffic Study on Joe Adams Road
13. Approval of the FY 2024-25 Rural Infrastructure Fund (RIF) Grant Application to the Florida Department of Commerce

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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.org 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 via Zoom using the credentials on the County's website. The Board's meetings are also broadcast live on the Board's Facebook page.

Chair Green read aloud the above statement.

Gary Murray, 481 Woodberry Road

Chair Green stated Mr. Murray did not need to speak anymore as he already spoke with Commissioner Holt regarding Woodberry Road.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

14. Approval of IOPS 360 Software Agreement

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. IOPS 360 is an innovative software to be implemented within Gadsden County Emergency Services. Its primary purpose is to consolidate various operational tasks into a single platform. This software will manage equipment and supply inventory, scheduling, education, employee tracking, vehicle inspections, and check-offs. By integrating these functions, IOPS 360 aims to streamline processes, improve efficiency, and ensure that all necessary tasks are handled in a coordinated manner. This fiscal impact to the County will be \$4,636.80. This has been included in 0144-55452 for the 2024/2025 budget.

Chief Hood stated for clarification that they currently have another software that they are using and the cost for that was \$4,538. They were notified that there will be a 10-15% increase every year for the next 5 years. They did their due diligence and found this company.

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

15. Approval of Resolution for Budget Amendment for FY 2023-2024 – Summer Youth

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. \$350,000 was budgeted for the program, and it came in at half a million dollars. They need to approve a budget amendment to bring down the additional money.

Commissioner Hinson stated he would like to know how the money was spent. He needed everything outlined to approve this.

Chair Green stated they can wait for the documentation of the budget amendment, but they have already approved this.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS ITEM UNTIL THE END OF THE MEETING AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

The board came back to this item at the end of the meeting and made the motion below.

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

16. Approval of Task Orders with the Integrity Group for Office of Management and Budget Services

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. Chair Green asked if they were finished and Mr. Dixon stated no. There will be some additional costs.

Commissioner Holt asked if they could advertise the budget director as soon as possible and Mr. Dixon stated there will be interviews on Thursday. Commissioner Holt also mentioned that there needs to be two positions for the Assistant Administrator.

Commissioner Simpkins asked about the additional costs – asked if additional things are needed. Mr. Dixon stated they were looking to get those additional things someplace else.

Commissioner Hinson stated they should have had an emergency meeting. It was impossible for him to explain to his constituents that they pay one company \$52,000 for a couple of weeks.

Chair Green stated this was a bill they have to pay and he was very unhappy about that. Commissioner Simpkins asked if they gave them the bill for the 1st week or if they billed both weeks at the same time. Mr. Dixon stated they billed both weeks at the same time. Chair Green asked if they could negotiate.

Mr. Dixon stated he recognized that this was not his best work. They hired a company that did this kind of work, but does not do this kind of work under these situations. Their prices were high. Commissioner Holt asked who was doing budget. Mr. Dixon stated they were far enough to get through budget.

Commissioner Simpkins asked Mr. Dixon if it was possible to go back and discuss the rate with them.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR THE COUNTY ADMINSTRATOR TO NEGOTIATE THIS ITEM AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

17. Discussion Regarding the Lease Agreement between the Gadsden County BOCC and the St. Hebron AME Church and St. Matthews Primitive Baptist Church as owners of a 2.0 +/- acre parcel of land to be used as a County Park

Mr. Dixon introduced. Commissioner Holt brought back this item to ask questions; it was already approved at the last meeting.

Commissioner Holt stated her concern was doing leases and she was not comfortable doing it with churches. She was good with it, as long as it was not a lease. Mr. Dixon stated the lease has been approved.

Mr. Knowles stated they had some leases that were successful and some were problematic.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

18. **Discussion and Approval of Lease Agreement with the City of Quincy Lease for property located at S 9TH Street, Quincy, Florida (Martin Luther King, Jr. Track Field) for the placement of a Community Center featuring a Boys and Girls Club**

Item Pulled.

19. **Approval of Public Emergency Medical Transportation (PEMT) LOA with Gadsden County Emergency Services**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. Digitech will collect all the data required for billing, financial, and utilization data. Once this is completed Digitech will prepare all files and submit a cost report to AHCA. Digitech will ensure that the County is meeting all federal and state guidelines while also ensuring the County receives optimal revenue. Digitech will be responsible for all audits required by AHCA and the program guidelines.

Chief Hood appeared. AHCA is estimating that the County could potential receive up to \$834,116.55 of new federal funds if the County elects to participate in this year's program. All match funds and reimbursement from AHCA will occur in the 2024/2025 county budget cycle.

Chief Hood stated that Digitech was online if anyone had questions. Zach Cordino appeared through Zoom. He stated the main goal of this program is to allow them to recoup some additional federal funding in association with providing services to Medicaid patients. The cost report allows them to recoup some fundings associated with patients that are enrolled in traditional Medicaid, which is funded by the state. From that cost report, the county received about \$20,000.

County Match – not to exceed \$6

Total New Revenue – up to \$834,116.55

Digitech will receive up to 6% of total new revenue

Chair Green asked Mr. Dixon if he had any idea, based upon their numbers, what they could afford to do as it relates to the match. Mr. Dixon stated he thought they could easily do this; they have that kind of money in reserve.

Commissioner Holt asked about the timeline for reimbursement. Mr. Cordino stated it could vary.

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

19a. Board Direction Regarding RFP 24-05 Legal Services

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. At the August 6, 2024, the staff presented an agenda item seeking Board direction on how to proceed with the evaluation, interviews and scoring of the four proposals received in response to the legal services RFP. The four proposals received were from:

- The Law Offices of Craig J. Brown, PA
- Williams Law Group
- Clayton Knowles, QLLC
- Law Office of John Reid

Commissioner Simpkins stated she thought they were having a special meeting where the law firms presented in front of the board.

Commissioner Hinson stated he was not able to attend the scheduled interviews. They were giving commissioners 2 days to make a decision.

Chair Green stated he was told that Commissioner Hinson agreed to the interview times. Then, Commissioner Hinson sent an email stating that he would not be available. Chair Green stated that he had asked what would work for him. Commissioner Hinson read aloud the email he sent to the County Administrator regarding interview times. In the email, Mr. Dixon stated he contacted the Chairman regarding Commissioner Hinson's issue and Chair Green informed Mr. Dixon that the interviews will continue on the timeline set.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she was about process; there was supposed to be presentations. She only received calls regarding setting interviews and not about the process. This was being rushed and they need to follow the process.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THORNTON WILLIAMS LAW GROUP AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS, HINSON OPPOSED.

Clerk Of Court

No Updates.

County Administrator

Mr. Dixon stated the first public budget hearing will be on September 10 at 6 p.m.

Economic Development Workshop will be on September 17 at 4 p.m.

Second Budget Public Hearing will be on September 24 at 6 p.m.

County Attorney

Mr. Knowles mentioned the public records lawsuit. He stated if they would like to have a SHADE Meeting to discuss the merits of that, they could.

Mr. Knowles asked the County Administrator who was the appropriate individual to file a bid protest with. Mr. Dixon stated that would be with Sheree Keeler.

Discussion Items by Commissioners

Commissioner Eric F. Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson mentioned internet access. Mr. Dixon stated they had the opportunity to meet with Broadband professionals. Commissioner Simpkins mentioned certain type of lines being ran that could affect their service.

Commissioner Hinson stated within a couple of years of paving roads, striping disappears. Mr. Dixon stated they have to sink their teeth into striping. They need to do the expensive stuff for the lines.

Commissioner Kimblin E. NeSmith, J.D., District 3

Commissioner NeSmith asked Mr. Dixon about the trip. Mr. Dixon stated they were trying this month.

Commissioner NeSmith asked for an update on Providence Road and Mr. Dixon stated they were still in the design phase.

Commissioner NeSmith mentioned Summer Youth. He stated 2025 Summer Youth starts today.

Commissioner NeSmith stated he did not see the increase that he expected in their general revenue. They need to find additional revenue to continue the progress that they are making.

Commissioner Hinson stepped out at 8:03 p.m.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt stated she was interested in striping more than lighting. Commissioner Holt requested a meeting with all entities providing healthcare in the county.

Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2

Commissioner Simpkins requested a proclamation for Linda Mason. She is the longest living survivor in Florida right now with Sickle Cell Disease.

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR LINDA MASON AND CHAIR GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Simpkins asked about the status on the Quincy Fire Contract. Mr. Morris did not have that information with him.

Commissioner Simpkins stated they need to take a look at fire services. They were not spending anything close to what other counties are spending on fire.

Commissioner Holt requested a proclamation for her Grandson, Isaiah Foreman.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR ISAIAH FOREMAN AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5

Chair Green thanked district 5 for electing him again as a commissioner.

Chair Green mentioned Spooner Road and hoped the striping was good so it could last

Chair Green asked for an update on Cane Creek and Champs Chance. Mr. Morris stated no update on cane creek but on champs' chance, the magistrate has announced 45-day period on what will take place. 45 days will end on September 22.

Chair Green mentioned Gadsden County Jail maintenance and upgrades. Mr. Morris stated they do maintain the jail; they just did an emergency repair on control panels.

Chair Green stated he was concerned about the conditions of the facility. Mr. Morris stated they just repaired some lighting last month and also had a fire inspection. They were working on air conditioning as well. Chair Green encouraged the board members to do a walk-through of the jail.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
September 3, 2024 - Regular Meeting

Commissioner NeSmith asked about the maintenance schedule for county buildings. All county buildings need to be put on a schedule. Mr. Dixon stated they were putting it together as they speak.

Chair Green mentioned the Boys & Girls Club and asked about the schedule for meetings. Mr. Dixon stated they scheduled the first 3 meetings. Ms. Steele stated the dates are the next 3 Mondays starting September 9.

Chair Green asked about the Quincy fire contract. Mr. Dixon stated he will find out more information on that.

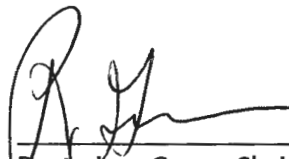
Commissioner Simpkins asked for updates on each department and Mr. Dixon stated they will get a monthly report. Commissioner Simpkins asked about ordinance regarding county property. Mr. Dixon stated they will get back on that.

Chair Green provided a greenlight moment.

Motion to Adjourn

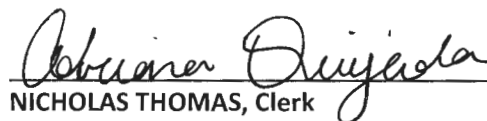
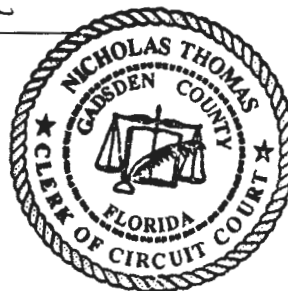
**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN
DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:41 PM.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA



Ronterious Green, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:


NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT A BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2024
AT 6:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS
HAD, VIZ:

Present: Ronterious Green, Chair, District 5
Alonzetta Simpkins, Vice-Chair, District 2
Eric Hinson, District 1
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
Brenda Holt, District 4
Roosevelt Morris, Assistant County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Green called meeting to order at 6 p.m. and led into invocation and pledge of allegiance.

Amendments and Approval of Agenda

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Hinson appeared at 6:02 p.m.

Citizens Requesting to be Heard on Non-Agenda Items (3-minutes 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 Green read aloud the above statement.

Cathy and William Farr, 564 Middle Creek Road Quincy, FL

Ms. Farr appeared and stated businesses are struggling and groceries are high. If tax rates are lower, more people will move here.

Mr. Farr appeared and was asking to lower the millage rate.

Public Hearing

1. First Public Hearing for Adoption of Tentative Millage Rate and Tentative Budget for FY 2024/2025

Commissioner Simpkins appeared at 6:04 p.m.

Mr. Morris introduced the above item and read through the analysis.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE MILLAGE RATE OF 9.0000 AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

Commissioner NeSmith stated he spoke with Mr. Farr about revenue needs in Gadsden County. They need to find additional revenue sources.

Commissioner Hinson asked how many EMS vans were purchased. Mr. Morris stated 3 last year.

Commissioner Hinson stated they should approve what they had last year; they could always make adjustments

Chair Green stated to approve what is presented and they could always make amendments later.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE TENTATIVE FY 2024/2025 COUNTYWIDE BUDGET AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 3 AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

Motion to Adjourn

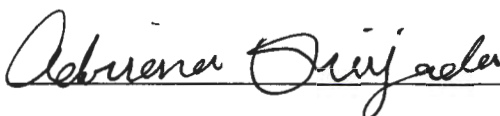
THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN DECLARED THE PUBLIC HEARING ADJOURNED AT 6:26 PM.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

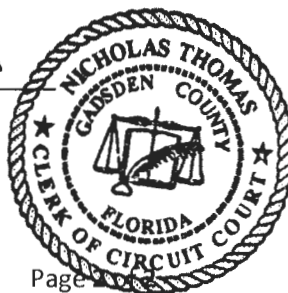


Ronterious Green, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:



NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk



AT A MEETING OF THE VALUE ADJUSTMENT
BOARD HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY,
FLORIDA ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2024 AT 10:30
AM, THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD,
VIZ:

Present: ERIC HINSON, Commissioner
 KIMBLIN NESMITH, Commissioner
 CATHY JOHNSON, School Board Representative
 CHRISSY SHORTER-ARNOLD, Real Property Representative
 FREDERICA YOUNG, Commercial Property Representative
 LOUIS J. BAPTISTE, VAB Attorney
 ADRIANA QUIJADA, Deputy Clerk

1. Call to Order

Commissioner Hinson called the meeting to order at 10:37 p.m.

2. Nominations and Election of Chairman to Value Adjustment Board (VAB)

(Must be a County Commissioner)

COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE MOTION TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER HINSON AS CHAIRMAN AND CHRISSY SHORTER-ARNOLD MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

3. Rules of Uniform Procedure-Instructions from VAB Attorney

Mr. Baptiste stated he would need to be appointed again.

CHRISSY SHORTER ARNOLD MADE THE MOTION TO APPOINT LOUIS J. BAPTISTE AS VAB ATTORNEY AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

4. Rule Chapter 12-D-9; FAC

- Chair to announce that the Uniform Rules of Procedure are readily available on the Clerk's Website.
- Announce that any and all forms needed to participate in the hearing can be found at the Clerk's website.

COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE MOTION TO ADOPT THE GUIDELINES AND CATHY JOHNSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

5. Florida's Government in the Sunshine Law

- VAB meetings are subject to the Florida Sunshine Law.
- Copy of the Book is in the room.
- A copy of the book may be obtained from First Amendment Foundation at 336 E. College Avenue, Suite 300, Tallahassee, FL 32301 or by calling 850-222-3518.

- The book is available for review in the Clerk's Office, Office of the County Administrator as well as the public library.

Mr. Baptiste stated the above.

6. Discussion of Local Administrative Issues

- VAB Training, if not completed, is available on the Department of Revenue website.
- Members will need to become certified and turn in the certificate to the Clerk for the record before Petition Hearings.

Mr. Baptiste stated the above.

7. Adoption and Ratification of the Filing Fee of \$15.00

CHRISSY SHORTER-ARNOLD MADE THE MOTION TO ADOPT THE FILING FEE OF \$15.00 AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

8. Discussion and Direction of Late Filed Petition

Mr. Baptiste asked to table this item.

CHRISSY SHORTER-ARNOLD MADE THE MOTION TO TABLE THIS ITEM AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE MOTION. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

UPCOMING HEARING DATE

Petition Hearing dates:
October 8, 2024

MOTION TO RECESS

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HINSON RECESSED THE MEETING AT 10:50 A.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**ERIC HINSON, Chair
Value Adjustment Board**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2024 AT 6:00
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

Present: Ronterious Green, Chair, District 5
Alonzetta Simpkins, Vice-Chair, District 2
Eric Hinson, District 1
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
Brenda Holt, District 4
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Green called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. Chair Green led into the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Amendments and Approval of Agenda

Mr. Dixon requested to pull items 4, 9, 10, and 11.

Mr. Dixon stated the below amendments:

Request to be added under Consent:

10a. Approval of the CDBG-CV Grant Agreement 22CV-SO9, Amendment #2 to
Extend the Agreement Expiration Date through September 30, 2025

Request to be added under General Business:

11a. Board Direction Regarding the Appointment of a Commissioner or a Designee to
Serve on the RFP 24-02 Auditing Services Evaluation Committee
11b. Board Direction on Gadsden County Legal Services contract

**COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED AND
COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.**

Awards, Presentations and Appearances

1. Recognition of Linda Mason

Commissioner Simpkins stated she will personally deliver the recognition to Ms. Mason.

Consent

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

2. **Ratification Memo**
3. **BOCC Meeting/ Workshop Minutes:**
 - a. August 6, 2024, Regular BOCC Meeting
 - b. September 3, 2024, 6th Budget Workshop
4. **Approval of State Aid Grant Agreement**
5. **Approval of Mutual Aid Agreement between Gadsden County and Florida State Hospital**
6. **Approval of Gadsden County Fire Service Education Agreement**
7. **Approval to Accept the Emergency Management Program Grants Emergency Management Preparedness and Assistance Agreement #A0480**
8. **Approval to Accept Proposed Funding Agreement #F0114 from the Florida Division of Emergency Management for final stage of construction and design of the Emergency Operations Center and Public Safety Complex**
9. **Approval of Severance Pay Policy**
10. **Approval of Lease Agreement for Heavy Equipment**
- 10a. **Approval of the CDBG-CV Grant Agreement 22CV-SO9, Amendment #2 to Extend the Agreement Expiration Date through September 30, 2025**

Items Pulled for Discussion

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.org 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 via Zoom using the credentials on the County's website. The Board's meetings are also broadcast live on the Board's Facebook page.

Chair Green read aloud the above statement.

Gary Yates, 2120 Killarney Way Tallahassee, FL 32309

Mr. Yates, President of Integrity Group, appeared before the Board. He stated he was there to discuss inaccuracies regarding the Integrity item from the last Board of County Commissioners Meeting. The first inaccuracy goes back to the budget project and hourly rate. There was a belief that the county was unaware of that hourly rate until they received the invoice. The two task orders that were provided at the September 30th meeting were assigned by the County Administrator dated August 1 and August 11. The hourly rate was 155 for both task orders. The 155 was not their disaster rate.

Mr. Yates stated the budget that was presented to them on September 3rd was very close to what last year's budget looked like. They were directed to provide a forced balance budget. Their first contract with the county was April 2020-2023.

Mr. Yates stated they were proud of the work they did for Gadsden County. It was not true they were ripping off the county.

Commissioner Simpkins asked about the 2 task orders. Mr. Yates stated originally had one task order; he was asked to break it down to multiple task orders.

Commissioner Simpkins asked about the forced budget and if there were implications. Mr. Yates stated there are implications. In their experience, it was important that before submitted to the state, it be a true budget.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if the staff was aware of the costs beforehand and Mr. Yates stated yes.

Commissioner Hinson asked to get all the documents that were sent to the county from June up until now.

John Czunis, 2120 Killarney Way Tallahassee, FL

Mr. Czunis gave his minutes to Mr. Yates.

David Gillespie, 2120 Killarney Way Tallahassee, FL

Mr. Gillespie gave his minutes to Mr. Yates.

Kalen Bruno

Ms. Bruno stated she was here from New Jersey. She is a director of environmental services at New Jersey Institute of Technology Assistance. They are the technical assistance provider from the EPA to provide free technical assistance to local governments, institutions, etc.

Ms. Bruno stated tomorrow, they are having an event from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Extension Office and invited all commissioners to attend.

Gloria Robinson, Linda Moore

Gloria Robinson and Linda Moore appeared before the board regarding Greenshade-Dogtown Volunteer Fire Department. They had a recent fire in their neighborhood and Ms. Davis lost her life. They were there to see what the county could do to better equip their fire department.

Gloria Robinson appeared to discuss this issue on behalf of her sister, Ms. Davis. She stated it took someone at least an hour to start clearing the fire out.

Chief Douglas appeared and stated they need to improve communication between the fire departments. He was asking for help from the county to be able to man that station. Ms. Moore stated 10 houses has caught on fire in that community.

Mr. Dixon stated they had to go through the EMS budget; they need to start moving away from Volunteer Fire Departments. The board allowed them to redirect a brand-new truck to Dogtown. Almost every fire truck they have is over 20 years old.

Commissioner Simpkins stated their communication needs to be better. The Chief was not notified and that was a problem. They may need to allocate funds for EMS services.

Commissioner Holt stated she was in favor of a full-time fire station on the east side of the county.

Commissioner Hinson stated they should start a committee to find ways to increase revenue. Mr. Dixon stated Greenshade-Dogtown needed their own people, it was too difficult moving people around.

Commissioner Simpkins wanted to make sure that if the staff were not at the station, then they were communicating with the Chief.

Commissioner Hinson stated to bring a whole new EMS to Dogtown and for them to stay overnight. Commissioner Simpkins stated that station was capable of that already to have staff overnight.

Chair Green stated they need to have a workshop within the next 2 weeks regarding fire services.

Dr. Traci Thompson

Dr. Traci Thompson appeared through Zoom to provide an update from North Florida Rural Health Clinic. They have seen over 200 patients for primary care and dental services. They receive patients regardless of their ability to pay. They just hired a new dentist and brought on a new team for mental health services. In one year, they could save the county upwards of 20 million dollars by treating uninsured patients in a clinic setting.

Commissioner Holt asked about applying for the low-income pool. Dr. Thompson stated that was a submission of information to the state; there was an application process and she could provide more information to her later.

Commissioner NeSmith asked when the clinic opened. Dr. Thompson stated starting from May; officially opened in August.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if they were seeing patients in person and Dr. Thompson stated the majority was in person but they also did telehealth. She stated non-clinical staff were there Monday-Friday and the clinical staff were there about once or twice a week.

Commissioner Hinson stated the reason he was asking these extensive questions was because they were the only ones who asked for a million dollars. They need to do research on this organization before moving forward.

Dr. Thompson stated the county could utilize funds as they wish; as they see uninsured individuals, they would request the county in terms of reimbursement of \$150 per visit.

Derrick Elias

Mr. Elias appeared before the Board regarding Greenshade-Dogtown fire station issue. He stated lives have been lost and they need to stop talking about these issues and take action.

Public Hearings

General Business

11. ~~**Discussion and Approval of Lease Agreement with the City of Quincy Lease for property located at S 9th Street, Quincy Florida (Martin Luther King, Jr. Track Field) for the placement of a Community Center featuring a Boys and Girls Club**~~

Item pulled.

11a. Board Direction Regarding the Appointment of a Commissioner or a Designee to Serve on the RFP 24-02 Auditing Services Evaluation Committee

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. He stated they were excluding Mr. Hayes and replacing him with Janice Harris.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if that was normal practice that the board appoints the staff members versus a commissioner being appointed. Mr. Dixon stated it included a commissioner.

Commissioner Hinson asked for a background on this. Mr. Dixon stated

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THIS ITEM WITH THE CORRECTION OF NAMES AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS TO SERVE ON THE RFP 24-02 AUDITING SERVICES EVALUATION COMMITTEE.

11b. Board Direction on Gadsden County Legal Services Contract with Pittman Law Group

Mr. Dixon introduced.

Mr. Knowles, County Attorney, stated for the record:

- This was illegal, there is an active bid protest that was timely filed
- Protest has not been resolved
- Protest period has not expired
- Contract of Pittman Law Group requires that termination notice is effective after 30 days of receipt of notice

Commissioner Simpkins stated it looked like it was going against the policy in place. They need to make sure they were following the process.

Mr. Dixon stated it was staff recommendation. He was not sure if the county attorney was representing himself or the county regarding the statement he made; it was a little concerning to him.

Commissioner Simpkins stated the attorney works for the board. She asked why they were not going through the process.

Commissioner Hinson stated they were voting on something that could affect the general funds. He stated they need to wait this out and make sure they are being fair. He asked if it

was fair to approve this agenda item when it was not properly advertised. Commissioner Holt stated they have approved items before without them being advertised.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she requested the board to follow the policy that they put in place. Mr. Dixon stated this was simply the next step in the process. They were following the will of the board. Commissioner Simpkins stated the board should decide how things are done. She was not sure why it says 'effective immediately'. They were going to have to pay both attorneys for the 30 days.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO TERMINATE PITTMAN LAW FIRM WITHOUT CAUSE AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS OPPOSED.

Clerk of Court

12. No updates.

County Administrator

13. Mr. Dixon stated there will be a Budget Hearing on September 24.

Mr. Dixon mentioned City of Gretna and the Love's truck stop coming out of Greensboro/Gretna I-10 exit. Some type of public hearing would need to be scheduled. Commissioner Holt was hoping to fast track that because they did not want to stall that project.

County Attorney

14. No Updates.

15. **Discussion Items by Commissioners**

Commissioner Eric F. Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson stated for them to stay positive and love each other.

Commissioner Kimblin E. Nesmith, J.D., District 3

Commissioner NeSmith thanked the staff for progress on Hardaway Highway.

Commissioner Hinson stepped out at 8:06 p.m.

Chair Green stepped out at 8:06 pm.

Chair Green returned at 8:07 p.m.

Commissioner NeSmith stated they need to work on the evaluation of the Administrator. They need to have a workshop on the County Administrator.

Commissioner NeSmith asked about the full-time grants coordinator position.

Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt mentioned schools abandoned. They need to look at an ordinance for that. She also wanted the board to consider amnesty day regarding trash.

Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2

Commissioner Simpkins stated even when she gets upset, she still loves her fellow commissioners.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 8:22 p.m.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned Dogtown road and asked for an update. She also mentioned striping on Jamieson Road.

Commissioner Simpkins requested a timeframe on property county owns.

Commissioner Holt returned at 8:24 p.m.

Commissioner Simpkins stated their directors should be able to come together and write grants. She asked about the mowing schedule – when are they mowing on the east side?

Commissioner Simpkins stated she was having a town hall meeting in Havana at 6 p.m. on September 26.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned the voter registration drive at Fontana Trail on September 29.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5

Chair Green mentioned having directors at meetings or online in case they had questions.

Chair Green mentioned the project on Spooner Road. He has had complaints due to the work being done.

Chair Green stated they have had 2 Boys & Girls Club meetings. He asked Mr. Dixon if they looked at other properties on Strong Road and Mr. Dixon stated they have.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
September 17, 2024 - Regular Meeting

Chair Green asked about the workshop for fire service. Mr. Dixon mentioned getting a consultant.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she wanted CHP present –they need to schedule that. Commissioner NeSmith asked about FACT helping with fire.

Chair Green asked to start conversations with the school board now about schools that are closing.

Chair Green stated on October 7, there will be a Community Meeting in Midway at the Fellowship Church.

Chair Green mentioned a drum major named Dontrell Hall and wanted to make a motion to give a proclamation.

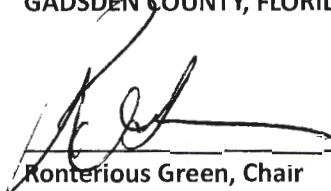
CHAIR GREEN MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR DONTRELL HALL AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.

CHAIR GREEN MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR ARDELLA BONDS AND ROSALIE WASHINGTON, WHO TURNED 90, AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.

Motion to Adjourn

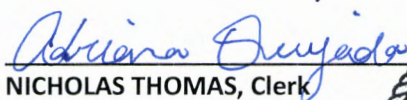
THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:40 PM.

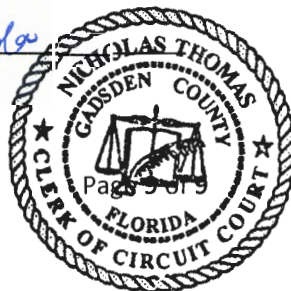
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA



Ronterious Green, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:


NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk



**AT A WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY,
FLORIDA ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2024 AT 4:00 PM, THE
FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Ronterious Green, Chair, District 5
Alonzetta Simpkins, Vice-Chair, District 2, appeared through Zoom
Eric Hinson, District 1, appeared through Zoom
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
Brenda Holt, District 4
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Green called the workshop to order at 4 p.m. Chair Green led into Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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Chair Green read aloud the above statement.

General Business

1. Introduction

Mr. Dixon introduced T.J. Lewis.

2. Gadsden County Economic Development Plan Presentation

T.J. Lewis appeared before the board and introduced Caroline Smith, ARPC, who will be providing the presentation.

Ms. Smith stated they would love to hear feedback from the commissioners on the Gadsden County Economic Development Plan.

Plan Overview:

1. Gadsden County's Current Economic State
2. Community Engagement & Strategy Development
3. SWOT Analysis
4. Six Pillars Framework
5. Breakdown of Goals, Strategies, and Tactics
6. Implementation

Ms. Smith stated mentioned a concerning area that is the poverty rate. It has been above 20% for over 30 years. That now qualifies Gadsden County as a persistent poverty county by the federal government. The good news there is that that enables Gadsden County to pursue federal funding for projects.

Commissioner Holt appeared at 4:31 p.m.

Ms. Smith went through the 6 pillars:

Pillar 1: Talent Supply and Education
Pillar 2: Innovation and Economic Development
Pillar 3: Infrastructure and Growth Leadership
Pillar 4: Business Climate and Competitiveness
Pillar 5: Civic and Governance Systems
Pillar 6: Quality of Life and Quality Places

Chair Green stepped out at 4:50 p.m.

Chair Green returned at 4:53 p.m.

Commissioner NeSmith asked when this was due to the state. Ms. Smith stated there was no deadline.

Motion to Adjourn

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN DECLARED THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED AT 5:33 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**RONTERIOUS GREEN, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A BUDGET HEARING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON SEPTEMBER 24, 2024 AT 6:00
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Ronterious Green, Chair, District 5, appeared through Zoom
Alonzetta Simpkins, Vice-Chair, District 2
Eric Hinson, District 1
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
Brenda Holt, District 4
Edward Dixon, County Administrator
Thornton J. Williams, County Attorney
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Vice-Chair Simpkins called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. Commissioner Hinson led into invocation and Commissioner Simpkins led into the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

Amendments and Approval of Agenda

Mr. Dixon stated there were no amendments to the agenda.

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

Citizens Requesting to be Heard on Non-Agenda Items (3-minutes Limit)

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Vice-Chair Simpkins read aloud the above statement.

Terry & Tonia Mitchell, 6360 Old Bainbridge Road Tallahassee, FL

Terry and Tonia Mitchell appeared before the board regarding their concerns about a private, unmaintained county road called Clifford Johnson Road. This was where the Love's Travel Stop project will be bringing in and out 8,000 vehicles a day based on their traffic study.

Mrs. Mitchell stated that for the past 2 years, they have attempted to meet and discuss this massive project with Love's representatives and the City of Gretna Manager. They have never been contacted, informed, noticed, or included by the City of Gretna. To this day, their attempts have been denied or

ignored. They were here to oppose Gadsden County transferring ownership of Clifford Johnson Road to the City of Gretna. They would like for Clifford Johnson Road to be lawfully annexed as other properties have in this project.

Mrs. Mitchell stated they would love to schedule a meeting with the Commissioners individually to see what they may know or not know.

Mr. Dixon stated this will be on the agenda next Tuesday, October 1.

Cathy and William Farr, 564 Middle Creek Road

Cathy Farr appeared to discuss the budget and millage rate.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she will call them back up once they get to the item.

Public Hearing

a. Introduction of Proposed Final FY 2024/2025 Aggregate Millage Rate

Commissioner Simpkins stated the proposed final aggregate millage rate is 9.0000.

Mr. Dixon stated citizens were allowed to speak now.

Cathy Farr, 564 Middle Creek Road Quincy, FL, appeared before the board to discuss millage rate and was requesting an 8.5 millage rate.

Commissioner Hinson asked Mr. Dixon if they were increasing taxes this year. Mr. Dixon stated they maintain the same millage rate as last year.

Reginald Cunningham appeared before the board. He stated this would be considered an increase from last year. The 9.0 millage rate would increase property tax.

Commissioner Hinson stated he wished they talked about this beforehand. They were not responsible for the value. Mr. Cunningham stated once they report the millage rate of 9.0 to the newspaper, the Department of Revenue would consider that as an increase to the citizens. That was the purpose of the rollback rate.

Commissioner NeSmith asked how much revenue generated via ad valorem. Mr. Dixon stated about 1.3 million.

Commissioner Holt stated when evaluation goes up, the tax amounts go up. The problem was that the cost of services went up too.

Mr. William Farr, 564 Middle Creek Road Quincy, FL, appeared. He stated revenues went up because property values went up. So, everybody pays more. Commissioner Hinson asked Mr. Farr how long he has been in Gadsden County. Mr. Farr stated 2 years.

Mr. Dixon stated they could always lower millage rate. County Attorney stated they have a balanced budget that has already been advertised.

b. Introduction of Proposed Final FY 2024/2025 Budget

c. Questions from Public

d. Chairman Introduces Motion for the following items: (Voted on separately and in order presented below)

1) Approval of Final FY 2024/2025 Millage Rate

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE MILLAGE RATE OF 9.0 AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.

2) Approval for Final FY 2024/2025 Budget

Commissioner Hinson asked if the budget was completed and Mr. Dixon stated yes.

Commissioner Simpkins asked about revenues listed and if they were updated. Mr. Dixon stated they did get updated numbers.

Ms. Steele stated Chair Green was on Zoom.

Lauren Scott appeared before the board. Commissioner Simpkins asked if these projections were correct. Ms. Scott stated they did reach out to different entities. Commissioner Simpkins asked why the projected amount was not put it and Ms. Scot state she was told to balance it what it was at that time.

Mr. Dixon stated they took a conservative approach to budget because they had to work through things like fire and EMS. Commissioner Hinson stated he had same concerns which is why he wanted a workshop. Commissioner Simpkins stated she felt like she could not defend this budget.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE FY 24/25 BUDGET AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS AND COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.

Commissioner NeSmith asked the County Administrator how many staff positions in budget were unfilled. Mr. Dixon stated there are 2 people dedicated to budget.

Motion to Adjourn

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, VICE-CHAIR SIMPKINS
DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:36 PM.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**Ronterious Green, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A BUDGET HEARING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON SEPTEMBER 24, 2024 AT 6:00
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Ronterious Green, Chair, District 5, appeared through Zoom
Alonzetta Simpkins, Vice-Chair, District 2
Eric Hinson, District 1
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
Brenda Holt, District 4
Edward Dixon, County Administrator
Thornton J. Williams, County Attorney
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

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Amendments and Approval of Agenda

Mr. Dixon stated there were no amendments to the agenda.

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Motion to Adjourn

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DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:36 PM.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**Ronterious Green, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON SEPTEMBER 24, 2024 AT
5:30 P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS
HAD, VIZ:

Present: Ronterious Green, Chair, District 5, absent
Alonzetta Simpkins, Vice-Chair, District 2
Eric Hinson, District 1
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
Brenda Holt, District 4
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Thornton J. Williams, Interim County Attorney
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order

Vice-Chair Simpkins called the meeting to order and recessed until they had a quorum.

Commissioner Holt appeared at 5:30 p.m.

Commissioner Simpkins led into invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

Amendments and Approval of Agenda

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED AND
COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 TO APPROVE.**

Citizens Requesting to be Heard on Non-Agenda Items (3-minutes Limit)

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Commissioner Simpkins read the above statement.

Approval of Resolution 2024-036

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item.

Commissioner NeSmith appeared at 5:33 p.m.

Commissioner Holt mentioned the shelters and Mr. Dixon stated they will be open tomorrow at 4 p.m.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2024-036 AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.

Motion to Adjourn

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, VICE-CHAIR SIMPKINS DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:40 PM.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**Ronterious Green, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON OCTOBER 1, 2024 AT 6:00 P.M.,
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Ronterious Green, Chair, District 5
Alonzetta Simpkins, Vice-Chair, District 2
Eric F. Hinson, District 1
Kimblin E. NeSmith, J.D., District 3
Brenda A. Holt, District 4
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Thornton Williams, Interim County Attorney
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk
Leann Jinks, Clerk Secretary to the Board

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Green called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. Chair Green led into the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Amendments and Approval of Agenda

Mr. Dixon stated the below amendments:

Add item 10.a.1, Approval to Extend the Emergency Resolution 2025-001 Resolution No. 2025-001

Request to be added under General Business:

10e – Approval to Dismiss the Pending Bid Protest

Commissioner Simpkins requested modification on item 10e. She stated the item needs to take place before item 10b. Mr. Williams stated item 10b needs to be before 10e. Commissioner Simpkins stated two contracts were being addressed in item 10b.

Commissioner Hinson asked if the item was advertised. Mr. Dixon stated this was general government and was put forth as such. The item was not advertised because it was not required.

Mr. Williams stated that the policy states notice has to be put out 10 days prior. The board can add and/or take away items until meeting time, with the exception of a public hearing where you have the quasi-judicial forum.

Ms. Steele stated that the added-on items were placed on the website as soon as they were received.

Commissioner Simpkins stated these items were not advertised on the website until yesterday September 30; it was not 10 days prior. Commissioner Holt stated the meeting was properly

advertised and they should move on. Commissioner Hinson stated the agenda was sent to him on September 29, which was only 2 days prior.

Commissioner Simpkins asked Mr. Dixon why they put item 10e on the agenda. Mr. Dixon stated they have been months without legal services, and recommends to move forward because documents and contracts are hanging to be completed.

Commissioner Simpkins asked why item 10.e was added. She stated it was a conflict of interest for Mr. Williams to advise on item 10.e, as he is a part of the bid and legal contract. Mr. Dixon stated the protestor was not ready to be the county attorney. Mr. Williams stated he did not have conflict of interest, as it was about the commission having choices. It would be a conflict of interest if their wants were not in line. They could choose not to do what I recommended to Mr. Dixon.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 6:21 p.m.

Commissioner Holt returned at 6:22 p.m.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS AND COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.

5. Awards, Presentations and Appearances

5a – Library Services Presentation

Tabitha Washington, Director of Library Services, appeared before the board and provided updates on the library. Ms. Washington presented a power point presentation.

6. Consent

Commissioner Hinson asked Mr. Dixon for an overview on item 6c. Ms. Fryson, Director of Elder Affairs, appeared to give an overview on item 6c.

Commissioner Nesmith asked if there was a yearly renewal, and Ms. Fryson stated yes.

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

6a. Ratification Memo

6b. BOCC Meeting/Workshop Minutes

1. September 3, 2024, Regular BOCC Meeting

2. September 10, 2024, 1st Budget Public Hearing

6c. Approval to Renew the Annual MIP Fund Accounting Software

7. Items Pulled for Discussion

8. CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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.org 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 via Zoom using the credentials on the County's website. The Board's meetings are also broadcast live on the Board's Facebook page.

Chair Green read aloud the above statement.

Rev. Charles Flowers, 799 Friday Road Quincy, FL 32352

Charles Flowers appeared. He came to speak on behalf of the community park in St. Hebron/St. Matthew. Mr. Flowers is asking for support on developing the park in St. Hebron/St. Matthew community.

Mr. Dixon stated they were just talking this morning and someone was looking at the trees to be taken down in that area.

Richelle Robinson, 335 Sparkleberry Blvd

Richelle Robinson appeared. Ms. Robinson shared her concerns regarding dismissal of the last county attorney. She stated she has read the protest submitted by Mr. Knowles. She wanted commissioners to go through the budget line by line, and amend it if necessary.

Ms. Robinson also mentioned roads being riddled with potholes.

Ethelyn Cunningham, 390 Grace Cunningham Road

Ms. Cunningham appeared to speak on behalf of the community park in St. Hebron/St. Matthew community.

Terry Mitchell, 6360 Old Bainbridge Road

Terry Mitchell appeared to talk about Clifford Johnson Road.

Chair Green stated it was on the agenda and will get back with him when the item comes up for discussion.

Pamela Reid, #1 Brewington Street

Pamela Reid appeared to discuss Piney Road Park. She stated the condition of the park is bad, and the equipment is rusting.

Joshua Keever and Julie Beruti, 104-A N Adams Street

Julie Beruti with Quincy Main Street appeared before the board to discuss Main Street and stated they were a non-profit organization.

Joshua Keever appeared to talk about upcoming events for Main Street.

9. Public Hearing

10. General Business

10a. Approval of Florida Department of Law Enforcement Salary Assistance for Fiscally Constrained Counties Grant

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. It is presented to the board for approval of the FDLE Law Enforcement Salary Assistance Grant for the Gadsden County Sheriff's Office. Funding from this grant will enhance the recruitment and retention plan of Sworn and Certified Officers. The amount provided to Gadsden County on behalf of the Gadsden County Sheriff's Office is \$657,697 as specified in the State budget.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if this is an annual grant, and Mr. Dixon stated yes.

Mr. Williams stated funds were for the Sheriff.

COMMISSIONER HOLT AMENDED MOTION TO APPROVE ITEM FOR COUNTY TO RECEIVE FUNDING AND AUTHORIZE AGREEMENT WITH SHERRIF'S OFFICE FOR THOSE FUNDS AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

10.a.1 Approval to Extend the Emergency Resolution 2025-001 Resolution No. 2025-001

Mr. Dixon presented the above item.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE TO EXTEND THE EMERGENCY RESOLUTION 2025-001 AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

10b. Approval of Legal Services Contract

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. At the September 17, 2024, Board Meeting, the Board approved Williams Law Group to provide legal services on an interim basis. Since that meeting, a bid protest was filed which stayed the award of the legal services bid to the Williams Law Group. There are two Agreements provided. The first is for an interim basis and the second is for a 4-year term. Each begins on the Effective Date, and may be renewed, extended, or modified only by written agreement executed by both parties. The Interim Agreement is at will and may be terminated by either party for convenience with 180 days written notice. The Agreement for legal services is for a four-year term. Since the County was without legal services since September 17, 2024, the Firm has provided legal services prior to the effective date of this Agreement. In order to pay the Firm, the Board would need to retroactively compensate the Firm. A retroactivity clause has been added to the Agreement.

Derrick Elias appeared before the board. Mr. Elias stated he noticed that the county administrator has a recommendation for option 1 of this item and he asked the board why would they have the county administrator make a recommendation on a position that reports to each of them.

Mr. Elias stated that as he read through the agreement, he was starting to see an interchange of 'county' and 'board'. He would like for someone to point out what is the 'county' and how it was defined. He also had concerns regarding 2(a) where it mentions routine telephonic consultation. It reads that certain fees will be charged but it does not say exactly how much it will be.

Mr. Elias stated under 2(b) of the agreement, it states: in lieu of providing a cellular phone, the County shall provide a monthly cellular phone subsidy of \$75.00, which comes out to be \$900 a month. He asked if that was really necessary.

Mr. Elias mentioned Term of Agreement and stated it reads that the board agrees that the firm shall be the sole source of legal services for the county. Again, he wanted to know how 'county' was defined.

Mr. Elias stated they have two things before them tonight. They need to break it up to have one or the other. Are they voting on the interim contract or are they going to be voting on

the four-year contract. The way they have it coupled was misleading. He wanted to know what was the hurry in voting on this item.

Commissioner Simpkins stated to Mr. Elias that they did not have any representation in the process of reading through the Legal Services Contract. The contract stated 30 days but they did it 'effective immediately'. When they look at the compensation, and they decide to terminate, it would not just cost them their normal fee. The highest of three months of billing is what they will be billed. She stated she was offended by this contract personally.

Commissioner Simpkins stated the contract reflects attorney dictatorship and was not in the best interest of the county.

Chair Green stated some things were inaccurate – they did not fire the attorney; The contract was up in March and they were on a month-to-month basis. He stated that Pittman Law Group sent a very nice exit letter telling them congratulations for their selection of the new law firm and thanked them for the opportunity.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE LEGAL SERVICES CONTRACT AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND WITH DISCUSSION.

Commissioner Simpkins stated the whole process was not done properly. She stated she did speak with Mr. Dixon about this and will still make her comments in public to let citizens know how she felt.

Mr. Dixon stated there seemed to be a focus on him. He stated he accepted this job at the pay that was offered. Mr. Elias did not accept this job with the money offered; he wanted more money. Mr. Dixon stated every city manager made as much as or more than the county administrator.

Commissioner Hinson asked who gave legal advice on this document and Mr. Dixon stated Attorney Williams did. Commissioner Hinson asked the Attorney if they should get another form of legal advice. Mr. Williams stated he drafted up a general contract; he stated the clause should not be in there and asked for there to be an amendment of that in the contract.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if they could get actual fees in the compensation. She wanted to know the charges for photocopying and charges for the research. Mr. Williams stated the billing will be very detailed. There are two types of billing, fees and costs. Photocopies have been billed at 25 cents a page for quite a while. They typically do not bill for research itself.

Chair Green stated he would like to modify the contract from 4 years to 3 years.

Mr. Williams stated the first correction would be under Compensation; they will add 25 cents a copy where it mentions photocopying. He stated they could take out the research part, they were not charging for research. The next amendment would be to change the term agreement from 4 years to 3 years. He also mentioned eliminating the language that talks about each party conferred with their council.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 8:02 p.m.

Commissioner Holt returned at 8:03 p.m.

Commissioner Simpkins asked Commissioner NeSmith if he thought it was fair that they just vote on the interim contract tonight. She asked Commissioner NeSmith wouldn't it be fair for the incoming commissioner to be able to vote on the permanent contract? She stated for them to just look at the interim contract versus trying to do the permanent contract.

Commissioner Hinson wanted clarification on 'eliminating language'. Attorney Williams stated there was language in the agreement that referenced that each party conferred with their council before entering into the agreement. They do not do that for government entities and it should not have been in there.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MODIFIED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE LEGAL SERVICES CONTRACT FOR 3 YEARS, TAKE OUT THE TERM FOR RESEARCH, INCLUDE 25 CENTS A PAGE FOR PHOTOCOPYING, AND ELIMINATE LANGUAGE THAT EACH PARTY CONFERRED WITH THEIR COUNCIL BEFOREHAND. COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS AND COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.

10c. Discussion and Approval of Task Orders with the Integrity Group for Office of Management

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. This item seeks Board approval of Task Orders 2024-01 and 2024-02 with The Integrity Group for Office of Management and Budget services. The approval is necessary to address the personnel shortage within the OMB and ensure that critical fiscal and budgetary operations continue seamlessly.

Mr. Dixon stated he did not do his due diligence in terms of having task order prepared in advance. He stated it was their state rate prices and not a disaster rate, however it was not the price he intended to pay for these kinds of services. They ceased the services immediately once he realized the price, and brought this to the board's attention.

Chair Green stated services have been provided and they need to pay the bill.

COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1, THE TASK ORDERS WITH THE INTEGRITY GROUP FOR OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND COMMISIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

10d. Discussion and Approval of City of Gretna Love's Travel Center

Mr. Dixon presented the above item.

The City of Gretna were requesting temporary access to the property. Mr. Williams gave a historical background.

Terri Mitchell appeared before the board. He was told they had 2 more meetings to discuss this. He owns 4 acres in corner of I-10 and Highway 12. Trucks will be driving by his property every day. Mr. Mitchell wants to have a meeting and sit down with the City of Gretna.

Mr. Dixon asked Mr. Mitchell what is his ask and what would he like to see happen.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if Mr. Mitchell has gone to city commissioner meetings and met with any of the city officials. Mr. Mitchell stated he was new to this, and had not but his wife had gone tonight.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if they must have a public hearing to convey any entity. Mr. Williams stated this would typically go to planning and zoning first.

Chair Green stepped out at 8:50 p.m.

Mayor Russ appeared.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she would like to get a timeline on the title search and land survey from the county attorney so it can be addressed in the next meeting.

Chair Green returned at 8:56 p.m.

Mayor Protem appeared to provide clarity. Mayor Protem stated he had a very lengthy conversation with Mr. Mitchell about this project.

Mr. Knowles was asking for a letter to DOT that the Board of County Commissioner's do not have a problem with the City of Gretna getting the permit. They were asking to dedicate the road to City of Gretna. Mr. Williams stated giving the letter would be a risk analysis. They talked about the possibility of doing the letter, however he cannot tell the board in this

meeting that the County owns the property. He could work with Mr. Knowles to do the title search.

Mr. Knowles stated he asking the Board of County Commissioners to agree that they will execute an interlocal agreement and agreeing to the letter that satisfied with what the City of Gretna is doing.

Commissioner Simpkins stepped out at 9:11 p.m.

Mr. Knowles stated the survey has already been done by engineers, and he can supply it tonight.

Commissioner Simpkins returned at 9:13 p.m.

Mr. Dixon stated they should give a driveway permit, as per his recommendations.

COMMISSIONER HOLT WITHDREW HER FIRST MOTION AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH WITHDREW HIS SECOND.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE DRIVEWAY PERMIT CONTINGENT ON THE TITLE SEARCH, SURVEY, AND LETTER TO FDOT AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN CONTINGENT THE PROPERTY BELONGS TO GADSDEN COUNTY AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

10e. Approval to Dismiss the Pending Bid Protest

Mr. Dixon presented the above item.

Mr. Dixon recommended that the board rejects all proposals pursuant to terms of RFP.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE TO DISMISS THE PENDING BID PROTEST AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND WITH DISCUSSION.

Commissioner Simpkins stated if this was in good faith, there would be no problem with moving the agenda item up. The bid process was over. She asked Mr. Dixon to give his rationale on this item. Mr. Dixon stated that they were led to believe they had to do an RFP to hire an attorney, but in actuality they never had to do an RFP.

Mr. Williams stated every bid document has language that they can reject the RFP process. Typically, the agency does not provide the reason to the bidder.

Mr. Williams stated RFP 24-05 for legal services should be considered not responsive and therefore cannot bid.

Commissioner Simpkins asked Mr. Williams why this item was not placed prior to his contract. Mr. Williams stated that it was a choice, and the board voted to keep the item where it was on the agenda.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION ONE TO DISMISS THE PENDING BID PROTEST AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS AND COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.

11. Clerk of Court

No updates.

12. County Administrator

Mr. Dixon thanked EMS, director Whaley, and all County Employees for their part in the hurricane preparations.

13. County Attorney

Mr. Williams thanked the commission for voting him in, and pledged he will work with all Commissioners and keep all commissioners informed going further.

14. Discussion Items by Commissioners

Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson mentioned issues with generators at schools/shelters.

Commissioner NeSmith stepped out at 9:39 p.m.

Commissioner NeSmith returned at 9:42 p.m.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 9:47 p.m.

Commissioner Holt returned at 9:49 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson stated every school/shelter needs a generator.

Kimblin E. NeSmith, District 3

Commissioner NeSmith thanked the County for their hand in the hurricane preparations.

Commissioner Hinson stepped out at 9:53 p.m.

Commissioner NeSmith would like for the board to participate in operation green light.

COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE A MOTION TO PARTICIPATE IN OPERATION GREEN LIGHT AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.

Commissioner NeSmith mentioned parks in St. Hebron.

Commissioner NeSmith asked Mr. Dixon about the severance package for the former County Administrator. Mr. Dixon stated they developed the policy and sent that out.

Commissioner NeSmith mentioned resurfacing on Hardaway Highway and stated it looks great. He asked for the status on Providence Road and Mr. Young stated it was still in design.

Commissioner NeSmith asked about Maple Street and Mr. Young stated he has not heard anything back yet.

Commissioner NeSmith asked about the Economic Development trip. Mr. Lewis stated it will be late October.

Commissioner NeSmith asked about scheduling a workshop for the budget.

Commissioner NeSmith stated that the County Attorney needs to review all contracts, especially the old ones that are coming up for renewal and/or are ending.

Commissioner NeSmith mentioned having our own college in Gadsden County.

Commissioner NeSmith asked Mr. Dixon how quickly we can build our own hospital in Gadsden County.

Commissioner NeSmith mentioned Stevens School and said how proud of that project he is as it is the first project, they actually turned the dirt on.

Commissioner NeSmith mentioned the Summer Youth program and how they are projecting well over 300 plus scholars, and it is going to come with a cost.

Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt stated her cell number is (850)510-9162, and if anyone has any questions to please give her a call directly.

Commissioner Holt mentioned the Economic Development trip.

Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2

Commissioner Simpkins asked the timeline on the road in Reston. Mr. Young stated they put in a request for a truck and should it be there in the morning at 8am; Hopefully will have it done by Tuesday or Wednesday of next week.

Commissioner Simpkins asked about lighting on Shady Rest Road. Mr. Young stated they fixed one and they need to order a part for others and are just waiting for that.

Commissioner Simpkins thanked all staff for hard work during the hurricane.

Commissioner Simpkins wanted the Board to make decisions that are wholistically and fiscally smart for their County.

Commissioner Simpkins stated we need to do exit surveys to find out why employees leave. Also, she wants a survey done with existing employees on their true feelings of the workplace.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she has still not received the organizational chart she requested in the last meeting.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she was passionate about serving and she was fighting for the best interest in Gadsden County.

Ronterious Green, District 5

Chair Green thanked all staff for their part in the hurricane preparations, and also thanked those who said a prayer for him for the car accident he was involved in.

Chair Green asked about Spooner Road project. Mr. Young stated they would be back in the following week to finish up the work, and it would take about 2 weeks to get the work completed.

Chair Green mentioned the boys & girls club. He asked what was the process of using the land the County already owns instead of going back and forth with the lease for 30 years with the city for this club. Mr. Dixon stated the lease has not gone forward due to the County not moving forward.

Chair Green requested a motion for a proclamation for Ms. Marley Green-Neely who is turning 85 today.

CHAIR GREEN MADE A MOTION FOR PROCLAMATION FOR MS. MARLEY GREEN-NEELY AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.

Chair Green provided a greenlight moment.

15. Motion to Adjourn

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:24 PM.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**Ronterious Green, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON OCTOBER 9, 2024 AT 5:00 P.M.,
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Ronterious Green, Chair, District 5
Alonzetta Simpkins, Vice-Chair, District 2, appeared online
Eric Hinson, District 1, appeared later
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
Brenda Holt, District 4
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Thornton Williams, County Attorney
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Green called the workshop to order at 5 p.m. Chair Green led into Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

Ms. Steele stated Commissioner Simpkins was online.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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 Green read aloud the above statement.

General Business

5.a Introduction

Mr. Morris stated as a result of Public Law 117-2 (the American Rescue Plan), Gadsden County was awarded a total of \$8,868,920 related to COVID-19. ARPA requires all funds to be obligated by December 31, 2024.

As of September 3, 2024, the County has a balance of \$3,162,538. The County has a risk of losing ARPA funds if the County fails to obligate or spend funds per US Treasury guidance.

Mr. Morris stated they have a presentation that provides background, ARPA expenses and balances.

Staff seeks board direction on recommended ARPA prioritization of remaining funds to meet US Treasury Allowable uses and deadlines.

5.b American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Presentation

Mr. Dixon appeared and stated Ms. Harris will provide the presentation today.

Janice Harris appeared before the board and went through cooperative procurement and the ARPA Board approved priorities.

Chair Green stepped out at 5:08 p.m.

Chair Green returned at 5:10 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson appeared at 5:11 p.m.

Projects that can be obligated by Dec. 31 2024:

- Ambulance Remount (4 units)
- Fire Service Improvements
- Emergency Housing
- Elderly Affairs Building Expansion
- Parks Upgrade and Expansion

Remaining ARPA Fund needed to be shifted to general funds to address EMS salaries/benefits allocation deficits and other expenditure concerns. Total \$1,933,789

Ms. Harris went through projects to be funded by general fund as a result of the fund shift. Commissioner Simpkins asked if they were paying EMS salaries for the fiscal year that just ended. Ms. Harris stated correct.

Proposed Contingency Project – Wild Hog Population Control
Proposed funding allocation: \$100,000

Proposed contingency project – Butler building parking perimeter fencing \$300,000

Commissioner Hinson mentioned that \$300,000 for a small parking lot was interesting.

Chair Green asked if they had a price analysis for parking lot fencing – securing that space was definitely a necessity. Chair Green stated he would like for more money going to the Housing program.

Mr. Morris stated fencing will include supervisor of election and the gate itself is \$35,000.

Chair Green mentioned there being no protection for the building. Mr. Morris stated they have discussed getting metal detectors.

Commissioner Holt mentioned page 7 – would choose to look at other things other than lighting.

Commissioner NeSmith appeared at 5:42 p.m.

Commissioner Simpkins stated lighting was a priority to her.

Chair Green stated he would like more details on cost analysis. Mr. Dixon stated the goal was not to give any money back.

Commissioner Holt asked for a cost analysis on the other block down the road to get fencing. She also mentioned the upkeep of the jail. Chair Green stated he did a tour of the jail – it is outdated and old but not in bad condition. Commissioner Holt stated she was more interested in safety of the jail.

Chair Green asked Mr. Dixon to start a conversation with Talquin regarding lighting.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 6:06 p.m.

6. Motion to Adjourn

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN DECLARED THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED AT 6:17 PM.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**Ronterious Green, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON OCTOBER 15, 2024 AT 6:00 P.M.,
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

Present: Ronterious Green, Chair, District 5
Alonzetta Simpkins, Vice-Chair, District 2
Eric Hinson, District 1
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
Brenda Holt, District 4
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Thornton Williams, County Attorney
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk
Leann Jinks, Assistant BOCC Secretary

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Green called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. Chair Green led into Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Amendments to the Agenda

Mr. Dixon stated the below amendments:

Mr. Dixon requested to pull item 11g, Approval to Upgrade Aging Fleet Through a Lease Program with Truck Worx.

Request to be added under Consent:

7.d. - Approval of Mosquito Control Certified Budget and Detailed Work Plan Budget FY2024-25

Request to be added under General Business:

11.h. - Approval on the ARPA Prioritization of Remaining Funds to Meet US Treasury Allowable Uses and Deadlines

Approval of Agenda

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED AND
COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.**

Awards, Presentations and Appearances

6a. Parks and Recreation Presentation by Parks and Recreation Director Shawanna Moye.

Commissioner Hinson appeared at 6:03 p.m.

Shawanna Moyer, Parks and Recreation Director, appeared before the board to provide updates and accomplishments in the Parks and Recreation Department, as well as presenting a power point presentation. Ms. Moyer went over upcoming events, activities for Parks and Recreation, as well as the plans, renovations, and goals for the future.

Chair Green asked if the process can at least be started in identifying a location for the High Bridge Community to have their own park, as the closest park is Sunset Acres and that is a City Park.

Commissioner Holt stated she would like to see the schedule of renovations at the Parks.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if capacity has been reached for the advisory board yet, and Ms. Moyer stated no. Commissioner Simpkins stated Ms. Moyer just needs to go ahead with the names she has received for the advisory board and move forward.

7. Consent

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

7a. Ratification Memo

7b. BOCC Meeting/Workshop Minutes:

1. September 17, 2024, Regular BOCC Meeting

7c. Approval of State Aid Grant Agreement

7d. Approval of Mosquito Control Certified Budget and Detailed Work Plan Budget FY2024-2025

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 Green read aloud the above statement.

10. Public Hearing

11. General Business

11a. Approval of FY2025 SC508 Small County Consolidate Waste Grant Agreement with Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. The item is presented to the board for approval of FY2025 SC508 Small County Consolidate Waste Grant Agreement with Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Department of Environmental Protection has provided grants for solid waste programs since 1988. This year's grant is in the amount of \$93, 750.00

Commissioner NeSmith asked Mr. Williams if he had an opportunity to look over the agreement, and Mr. Williams stated yes, he had looked over the agreement.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE FY2025 SC508 SMALL COUNTY CONSOLIDATE WASTE GRANT AGREEMENT WITH FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

11b. Approval of the Florida Commerce Agreement BB212 Awarding the County Four Million Dollars (\$4,000,000)

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. The item is presented to the board for approval of the Florida Commerce Agreement BB212 Awarding the County Four Million Dollars (\$4,000,000) to renovate and expand the Chattahoochee library to provide a telehealth and career center. Florida Commerce issued a funds availability for the broadband multipurpose community facility grant due by October 5, 2024. We initially applied for \$86,000,000 and we were awarded \$4,000,000 for Chattahoochee, and \$2,000,000 for Havana. We have engaged with CareerSource as a willing partner. Mr. Dixon stated this is a cost reimbursement grant agreement.

Commissioner NeSmith asked Mr. Dixon to clarify how the cost reimbursement grant program works. Mr. Dixon stated the money will be spent first, then they will be reimbursed.

Commissioner NeSmith asked Mr. Williams if he had an opportunity to look over the agreement, and Mr. Williams stated yes, he had looked over the agreement. Mr. Williams also stated he has looked over all the agreements on the agenda and everything is in order and there are no legal issues.

COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE FLORIDA COMMERCE AGREEMENT BB212 AWARDDING THE COUNTY FOUR MILLION DOLLARS (\$4,000,000) AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

11c. Approval of Agreement for Graphic Design Services with MediumFour, LLC

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. The item is presented to the board for approval of the Agreement for Graphic Design Services with MediumFour, LLC. The agreement is for 3 years, and is in the budget for the Public Information Department.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if this agreement covers the recording of infomercials, she stated in the past we have had to contract out for that. Also, she asked if \$4500 a month was necessary and if they were putting out projects monthly to need a Graphic Design Service. Ms. Steele stated yes.

Commissioner Hinson was confused about the \$4500 a month if it's just flyers being created. He suggested we bring in high school students to help create the projects, and maybe we could save some money.

Chair Green stated the need for Graphic design Service is not just for flyers. Chair Green asked Ms. Steele for clarification in which she was not able to provide at that time, however she did state that if this was an in-house position that it would still cost the \$54,000, they are agreeing to pay MediumFour LLC annually.

Commissioner Holt stated there are projects that need to be done professionally, often, and monthly, so yes, they need a Graphic design service. She stated there are multiple departments that put projects out, and we do have deadlines most of the time with the projects.

Commissioner NeSmith stated he agreed with Commissioner Hinson's comments on bringing in youth to help out, and as a matter of fact that would be a good addition to introduce to the summer youth program. He also stated he sat down with Ms. Steele as he was concerned with the monthly amount to be paid to MediumFour LLC and was provided statements from last year and all the statements he saw exceeded this amount and some by significant numbers.

Commissioner Simpkins stepped out at 6:36 p.m.

Commissioner Simpkins returned at 6:37 p.m.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGREEMENT FOR GRAPHIC DESIGN SERVICES WITH MEDIUMFOUR, LLC AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

11d. Approval of Agreement for Tourist Development Council Marketing Services with MediumFour, LLC

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. The item is presented to the board for approval of the Agreement for Tourist Development Council Marketing Services with MediumFour, LLC. The Tourist Development Council is able to approve their own contracts, but the board has to ratify. The funds are coming from the Tourist Development Council budget.

Mr. Williams stated to clarify that the Tourist Development Council can approve up to \$30,000, and anything beyond that amount has to go to the board for approval.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if everything related to marketing and Tourist Development Council will be done by MediumFour, as this agreement is \$150,000 annually. Ms. Steele stated yes, we will not be outsourcing. If there is a project that the Tourist Development Council need to outsource, they will be required to take it to the board for approval first.

Commissioner Hinson asked if Mr. Dixon did an RFP on this item. Mr. Williams stated there was an RFP issued for this item.

Commissioner Hinson asked if the RFP was included in the documents he was provided for the meeting. Mr. Williams stated no the RFP was not included, and normally we do not put an RFP for a selected vendor, however the contract is included and it is here.

Commissioner Holt stated the Tourist Development Council advertised a couple of times for vendors. The Tourist Development Council can do that themselves and that's what the Tourist Development Council has always done. The Board of County Commissioners does not advertise for vendors for the Tourist Development Council. She stated the Tourist Development Council meeting was publicly advertised and recorded.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT FOR TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL MARKETING SERVICES WITH MEDIUMFOUR, LLC AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

11e. Approval to Confirm the Chief Financial Officer

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. The item is presented to the board for approval to Confirm the Chief Financial Officer.

Dr. Burroughs appeared and introduced the Chief Financial Officer, Janice Harris.

Commissioner Hinson thanked Ms. Harris for coming on board. He also stated the Clerk had heartburns about Chief Financial Officer title, as that is his title as well as the Clerk. He asked how they could have two of the same titles, and mentioned the letter from the Clerk addressing this issue.

Mr. Dixon stated there should be no problem with the title, as she is the Chief Financial Officer for the Board of County Commissioners. He stated he will look into the title issue again with Mr. Williams.

Commissioner Holt stated the position is under the Board of County Commissioners, and the Clerk is a separate constitutional officer with the Clerk of Court, and if there are any issues Mr. Williams will let the board know.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL TO CONFIRM THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER AND CHAIR GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

*****51:30 on the video on Clerk's website.

11f. Approval to Confirm the Growth Management Director

Dr. Burroughs appeared and introduced the Growth Management Director, Mr. Beau Scott.

Chair Green thanked Mr. Scott for taking the position, and also thanked him for his help the night before with the meeting in District 5.

Commissioner Holt also thanked Mr. Scott for accepting the position as she knows he'll be favorable to the people of Gadsden County in getting some development done.

Commissioner NeSmith also thanked Mr. Scott for his help with the meeting the night before for district 5.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL TO CONFIRM THE GROWTH MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

~~11g. Approval to Upgrade Aging Fleet Through a Lease Program with Truck Work~~

Item pulled.

11h. Approval on the ARPA Prioritization of Remaining Funds to Meet US Treasury Allowable Uses and Deadlines

Chair Green stepped out at 6:58 p.m.

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. The item is presented to the board for approval on the ARPA Prioritization of Remaining Funds to Meet US Treasury Allowable Uses and Deadlines. This item is to approve the original priority list with the funds shift and/or to approve the priority list with contingency projects without the funds shift. We ask that the board moves on option one, which is to approve the original priority list with the funds shift.

Commissioner Hinson stated he thought the board was going to have a workshop before voting on this item due to needing more dialogue on this subject, and he said it was stated at our last meeting we would have a workshop.

Chair Green returned at 7 p.m.

Mr. Dixon stated they were mainly wanting the approval for the shifting of funds. So, we can begin that process to make sure we're covered no matter what programs the board approves. Unless there are major changes in the prioritization of the programming, and if there is please let us know so we don't continue down this road.

Ms. Harris appeared before the board. Her only concern was that it was pushing the deadline, and they do need to obligate the funds. Especially need to work on the funds shift if that's what the board is wanting to do because it is going to require a lot of support. She stated time is of the essence.

Commissioner Holt stated she is very interested in the funds shift, and asked Ms. Harris if she was correct in her statement about how the shift would work. Ms. Harris said yes.

Chair Green recommended that the board have meetings with and hash it out with Mr. Dixon individually, and schedule the meeting so when we come back for the next meeting, we have a better understanding of this agenda item.

Commissioner Simpkins wanted clarification on option 1, to approve the original priority list with the funds shift. Chair stated she could modify the motion because if we're having uncertainty about obligations for a particular item we can amend and change the line items.

Commissioner NeSmith stated he met with the Chief Financial Officer and he was comfortable with this agenda item. Stated the board has discussed the 5 items in question regularly without much if

any opposition from the board on these items. The funds shift is only 2 million, and even after the shift takes place, the board can go back and add any new ideas they may come up with.

Commissioner Simpkins asked for clarification as to what was the amount of the funds shift that was being referred to. Ms. Harris stated anything that is allowable under Treasury rules, such as fire salary, EMS salary, equipment, etc.

Mr. Dixon stated it did not matter how much they shift; the idea is to cover it all so we don't give a dime back for any reason.

Commissioner Holt asked Ms. Harris' recommendation for the funds shift expenditures. Ms. Harris stated it can be anything made up under Treasury Rules that is allowable, such as fire and EMS salaries, benefits, and equipment.

Commissioner Holt asked if a total funds shift was done, how would that affect the items in discussion. Mr. Dixon stated it would not affect what the board decides to do with the money, it would just preserve more of the money. Ms. Harris stated she would have to see if doing a funds shift on all the money is even permissible.

Commissioner Holt stated she brought up the funds shift because if the board is voting on the funds shift then she wants to know what numbers they are voting on. Ms. Harris stated before she ever came on with Gadsden County that the board had already discussed, and put together a list of projects. Ms. Harris stated they identified the priority projects that could get obligated before December 31st. Ms. Harris stated the balance to complete all projects would be 1.9 million, so the board would have to funds shift 1.9 million.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she was really not comfortable, because we are sitting here trying to figure things out, and I do not think we should vote on this item tonight. She wants to have a meeting to discuss this item further because it would be more beneficial for her to meet with Mr. Dixon, and also make her more comfortable.

Chair Green asked if they could pull the item, and asked the board how soon they could meet to re-address this item. Commissioner Holt stated Thursday, Mr. Dixon reminded everyone that Commissioner Simpkins has a community meeting Thursday already so that wouldn't work.

Commissioner Hinson stated to meet 4 p.m. before the next meeting, and then suggested next Tuesday October 22, 2024. Chair Green agreed Tuesday should be available.

Commissioner NeSmith stated he is just concerned because he doesn't want to send 1 brown penny back, and again he is comfortable with this item because he sat down with Ms. Harris who explained it to him.

Mr. Dixon asked to approve the funds shift itself since there doesn't seem to be a problem with that, the issue is how much money.

Commissioner Hinson stated they could wait a week, there was no harm in 1 week. He stated he wants to have the time to have the conversation about having a community center in the East and West part of Gadsden County.

Chair Green asked Mr. Dixon what difference would it make to discuss this next week, and Mr. Dixon stated there was no difference to wait 1 week. He stated every question that every commissioner has, would have the opportunity to meet with Ms. Harris, and then be able to come to the meeting on October 22, 2024 and discuss what we want.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL TO TABLE THE ITEM AND SCHEDULE A SPECIAL VOTING MEETING AT 6 P.M. TUESDAY OCTOBER 22, 2024 AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

12. Clerk of Court

No updates.

13. County Administrator

Mr. Dixon stated the first board meeting of November is on November 5th which is election day, and asked if the Board wished to reschedule the meeting to Monday November 4th. Commissioner Simpkins asked to just cancel the meeting.

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE THE MOTION FOR THE NOVEMBER 5 BOCC MEETING TO BE CANCELLED AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

14. County Attorney

No updates

15. Discussion Items by Commissioners

15a. Commissioner Eric F. Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson asked Mr. Dixon about Neighborhood Services AC units and it was taking so long to get them up and working. Mr. Parks appeared before the board, and stated once they got

approval from the Board, then they went out and got bids, once the lowest and best bidder was chosen, then the contractor had to order the supplies, once the supplies came in, then the contractor would be able to get the units installed. Mr. Parks also stated this same contractor was working on both the Simon Scott building and Neighborhood services building.

Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Parks how long the bid process took, and he said about 2 weeks.

15b. Commissioner Kimblin E. NeSmith, District 3

Commissioner NeSmith thanked everyone who took time for him to answer any questions he had. He also thanked Mr. Williams for his communication and clarification on some of the agenda items.

Commissioner NeSmith stated Love Where You Live our bulky item pickup campaign is in full swing. He also asked Mr. Dixon if it was all County roads and not just main county roads, and Mr. Dixon stated yes, all county roads.

Commissioner NeSmith stated he had been doing some research and found there are 4 essential elements that make up a thriving community and they are; 1. A local community financial institution, 2. Thriving educational system which means we need our own Community College here in Gadsden County, 3. Good health care options and we don't even have a hospital here, 4. Local and community grocery stores.

Commissioner NeSmith stated they need to emphasize the importance of STEM, as he talked about the new robot that Tesla owner Elon Musk has released.

Commissioner Hinson stated there is one pillar and that is infrastructure.

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



Commissioner Holt stated she has been trying to go on this trip for 7 years, to go see what the economic development will look like. It is a mindset and the community has to change its mindset in order to bring in the businesses we want to bring in.

Commissioner Holt thanked everyone for their participation in the voter rally Saturday.

Commissioner Holt mentioned the Industrial Board, and that board being the only board that can borrow money. She also stated she did not think the industrial board had met in years, and we might need some more members.

Chair Green asked Commissioner Holt if she knew how the Industrial board came about, and she said she did not know as the board was there before she got here. Mr. Dixon stated that the Industrial board was created by the legislator.

Commissioner Holt invited anyone who was interested to attend the board's trip for economic development. Chair Green stated to Commissioner Holt that if people are interested and wanting to attend, they can, but at their own expense.

15.d. Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2

Commissioner Simpkins thanked Public Works for taking care of the cross-drain in Reston that blew out during the hurricane.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned striping and asked for updates. She stated there is no striping what so ever on Jameson Road or even lights so it's dark on that road and the residents can't even see to make sure they're on the right side of the road. Mr. Dixon stated he was hoping to piggy back off somebody's contract, due to when we put it out for advertisement, we don't always get good vendors and when we do, they are super expensive. He said they may have to come back with an RFP.

Commissioner Holt returned at 7:58 p.m.

Commissioner NeSmith asked about the thermoplastic on Hardaway highway cause right now it's just paint. Mr. Young stated the paint was temporary and it would be done with thermoplastic.

Chair Green asked what was going on with the paint and thermoplastic on spooner road. He wanted to know why use the paint and then go back to thermoplastic, why not just thermoplastic it from the beginning and not use the paint. Mr. Young stated it was because if they have any issues with the asphalt and need to resurface it, they can do so without having to strip the thermoplastic.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned volunteer fire departments and asked about paying course fees for the volunteers. Chief Hood appeared, and stated we can offer EVOC, BOS/CPR, and fire 1 free of charge, but it gets a little tricky when you get into the Fire 2 side of things because it is more hours.

Chair Green stepped out at 8:04 p.m.

Chair Green returned at 8:06 p.m.

Chief Hood stated his concerns with paying for all the courses because if the volunteer is not a county employee and then we pay their way through school for 6 months to a year and they get their certification and go 2 counties over and make \$30, 0000 more per year than they would have here in Gadsden. He wanted to know how we would ensure getting our money back if the volunteer were to do that.

Commissioner Simpkins stated they need to figure out how to recruit more volunteer firemen.

Mr. Dixon asked Chief Hood how Fire 2 works in terms of the educational length. Chief Hood stated it generally takes 6 months to complete, and then you have to take the state test.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned Scott Town Park, and Mr. Dixon stated that there are workorders out there for this park.

Commissioner Simpkins stated Parks and recreation along with herself will be partnering with a Hispanic car group to host a trunk or treat on October 26th from 4-7pm at Fantana Park.

Commissioner Simpkins will have a community meeting October 17th at Mt. Zion AME church on the glade at 6 p.m. regarding services available in Gadsden County.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she is still waiting on a CHP workshop to be scheduled.

Commissioner Simpkins stated the email from the Clerk was sent to her because she called that morning and requested the information. The email did not come from the clerk, the email came from his employee. Chair Green stated he already had clarification of the situation.

Commissioner Holt stated we need to set aside money for Economic Development. She stated she doesn't know how we are going to do it, but we need to figure out how to do that.

Commissioner Hinson asked how its legal to allow a developer not even from Gadsden County to put 5-6 houses on 1 acre of land, but if I want to put my family close together on my property I can't because I am told the water quality would be bad and everything else that goes with it. Chair Green agreed with Commissioner Hinson, and asked that a workshop be scheduled to address this subject.

15.e. Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5

Chair Green mentioned Boys & Girls club timeline, and options. He asked Mr. Dixon for clarity on the clearing of property on Strong Road, and Mr. Dixon stated they cleared some land to go in and look to see what is useable and what the property presents.

Commissioner NeSmith asked Mr. Dixon if there was a deadline to use this money, and Mr. Dixon stated yes there is, and he would get the commissioners the list of deadlines the next day.

Chair Green mentioned Mobile Health bus, and asked Mr. Dixon for clarity on the mobile health bus. Mr. Dixon stated the health council and Board of County Commissioners agreed during COVID to acquire a mobile unit.

Chair Green stated he is excited to serve the new area of his district after re-zoning and the community is happy as well that I am their commissioner.

Chair Green stated bulky item pickup is coming up in District 5. Chair Green requested proclamation for Bishop Williams who is celebrating 40 years of services to this community.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR PROCLAMATION FOR BISHOP WILLIAMS AND
COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.**

Chair Green provided a greenlight moment.

16. Motion to Adjourn

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN DECLARED THE
MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:31 PM.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**Ronterious Green, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT A MEETING OF THE VALUE ADJUSTMENT
BOARD HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY,
FLORIDA ON OCTOBER 17, 2024 AT 10:00 AM,
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

Present: ERIC HINSON, Commissioner
 KIMBLIN NESMITH, Commissioner, Absent
 CATHY JOHNSON, School Board Representative
 CHRISSY SHORTER-ARNOLD, Real Property Representative
 FREDERICA YOUNG, Commercial Property Representative
 LOUIS J. BAPTISTE, VAB Attorney
 ADRIANA QUIJADA, Deputy Clerk
 LEANN JINKS, Clerk Secretary to The Board

1. Call to Order

Chair Hinson called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

2. Reconvene Meeting from September 10, 2024 and announce all petitions have been withdrawn.

Chair Hinson read the above. Mr. Baptiste stated the Property Appraiser and the Clerk received several petitions this year and they have received notice of withdrawal for all of them.

3. Approval of Minutes

- a. September 10, 2024
- b. October 17, 2024

FREDERICA YOUNG MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE ITEM 3A AND 3B AND CHRISSY SHORTER-ARNOLD MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.

4. Discussion and Approval of Attorney Fees

Mr. Baptiste stated when the VAB voted on attorney fees last year, they voted for it to be a fixed rate. The county commissioners paid 2/3 and school board paid 1/3 of the attorney fees. He stated training was difficult this year but was able to pass at 95%. The certificate was given to the Clerk.

Commissioner Hinson mentioned petitions increasing every year and stated that the Property Appraiser is evaluating property taxes different.

CHRISSY SHORTER-ARNOLD MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FLAT RATE OF \$20,000 FOR ATTORNEY FEES AND CATHY JOHNSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.

Adjournment

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HINSON ADJOURNED
THE MEETING AT 10:13 A.M.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**ERIC HINSON, Chair
Value Adjustment Board**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON OCTOBER 22, 2024 AT 6:00
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Ronterious Green, Chair, District 5
Alonzetta Simpkins, Vice-Chair, District 2
Eric Hinson, District 1
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
Brenda Holt, District 4
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Thornton Williams, County Attorney
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk
Leann Jinks, Assistant BOCC Secretary

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Green called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Chair Green led into invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Amendments and Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Dixon stated there are no amendments.

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

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 Green read aloud the above statement.

General Business

7.a. - Approval on the ARPA Prioritization of Remaining Funds to Meet U.S. Treasury Allowable Uses and Deadlines

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. The item is presented to the board for approval on the APRA prioritization of remaining funds to meet the U.S. Treasury allowable uses and deadlines. He stated

the board had met on this item weeks prior, and the goal still remained the same to authorize staff to move funds.

Commissioner Simpkins appeared at 6:03 p.m.

Ms. Harris appeared and stated the only change to the package presented to the board was adding the Clerk of Courts for funds to be obligated. She stated they received the Clerk of Courts information that morning.

Chair Green asked Ms. Harris how adding the Clerk of Courts would impact the things they already have allocated. Ms. Harris stated added the Clerk of Courts just re-allocates the funds down to 1.8 million.

Chair Green stated the main reason for this special meeting was to make sure 2 of his colleagues were able to have adequate time to go through the package presented to the them and give them the opportunity to have conversation with staff and/or add information if they wanted.

Chair Green asked Commissioner Hinson if he had the opportunity to get the appropriate numbers and things in that nature for his ideas to be able to present the items to the board.

Commissioner Hinson stated again he would like for them to look into adding 2 community centers, one in each part of Gadsden County. So that the citizens that are so far from the community could have something to do. Chair Green stated he wished they had numbers to go with what Commissioner Hinson is requesting, as he supports adding community Centers but would love to see an outline with some numbers.

Commissioner Hinson stated he has not spoken with staff yet about this, he said they have been playing phone tag so unfortunately, he hasn't had the chance. He stated he does think this is a pressing issue and this is a board conversation.

Chair Green stated he was hoping for due diligence so they can have the conversation via numbers and what it would cost approximately from the funding that they are trying to allocate tonight. He stated he thought the idea was great, but wished they had some numbers so that they can make a better-informed decision.

Commissioner Hinson asked Mr. Dixon once the funds are obligated, how many years do we have to spend the funds. Mr. Dixon stated once the funds are obligated, the funds will go into general revenue and then you have an unlimited amount of time to spend the money at your leisure.

Mr. Dixon stated Ms. Harris had been working with NACo (National Association of Counties) and they revealed other options for the funds for Gadsden County.

Ms. Harris stated will be coding EMS salaries for this fiscal year and the next fiscal year if they have enough. She said meaning those funds will come out of ARPA, and in turn that will free up the general revenue budget and the board can use that for their projects as they deem it necessary.

Chair Green stated to Commissioner Hinson that he is not sure why staff had been inaccessible to Commissioner Hinson as he himself had met with staff and also asked Commissioner Simpkins if she had the opportunity to speak with staff, and Commissioner Simpkins stated she met with Ms. Harris to have her questions answered. Commissioner NeSmith stated he also spoke with staff.

Chair Green stated he wants to support the community centers so he suggested that Commissioner Hinson get with staff to try to get an outline and what its going to take to make it happen. He stated with the funds being freed up in general funds that this maybe something they can look into.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she walked in on the meeting in progress and wanted to know if anything was covered before she got there, and Chair Green stated nothing.

Ms. Harris stated they will be coding salaries to ARPA, and it will free up the general revenue budget due to no longer paying salaries out of the general revenue budget. She stated you have to choose projects that you can obligate the money before December 31st, and they identified 6 projects that they suggest.

Commissioner NeSmith stated he was also interested in community centers, and stated to Commissioner Hinson that the community center they are putting in Quincy will help give some numbers and a baseline for his idea of 2 new community centers.

Commissioner NeSmith asked to clarify the projects on the priority list. He also asked Ms. Harris about the budget for EMS, and Mr. Dixon stated some funds had already been allocated as they had already sent 2 ambulances to be transitioned.

Ms. Harris stated the funds do not have to be expended; they just have to be obligated.

Commissioner Holt stated none of the projects they are obligating money to make money so they may have to go back and look at this again. Until we have a plan in place, they cannot get state or federal money. So, the remaining money they need to look into using it for match money in economic development.

Chair Green stated maybe they can use the money freed up in the general fund for economic development.

Commissioner NeSmith asked Chair Green if they had allocated any funds for infrastructure. Mr. Dixon stated there is a small pot.

Chair Green stated that the board can decide if they want to do something differently with the money that has already been coded, then they will have the opportunity to do that.

Commissioner Hinson mentioned setting money aside for businesses. He stated 1.2 million was set aside for businesses 1 year and then they got a new commissioner that year and the pot dwindled down to about \$400, 000 that year. He suggested the money be put back into the pot for small businesses.

Mr. Dixon stated there was \$100, 000 in industrial park and \$120, 000 for infrastructure.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE ORIGINAL PRIORITY LIST WITH RE-ALLOCATION OF FUNDS AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

8. Motion to Adjourn

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:31 PM.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**Ronterious Green, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON NOVEMBER 4, 2024 AT 6:00
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Ronterious “Ron” Green, Chair, District 5
Alonzetta Simpkins, Vice-Chair, District 2
Eric Hinson, District 1,
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
Brenda Holt, District 4
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Thornton Williams, County Attorney
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk

1. Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Green called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. Chair Green led into Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

Commissioner Holt appeared at 6:01 p.m.

2. Amendments and Approval of Agenda

Mr. Dixon stated the following amendments:

Add under Consent: Item 7.i, *Approval of the Finance Office to Process Payment for the 3rd Annual HOLA Gadsden*

Add under General Business: Item 11.h, *Approval of Settlement Agreement with Georgette Daniels*

Mr. Dixon requested to pull items 11.c, *Approval to renew WastePro contract*, and 11.d, *Lease Agreement with City of Quincy for S 9th Street Quincy, Florida*.

Chair Green asked if they considered other properties regarding item 11.d. Mr. Dixon stated they looked at the property and they have not done any technical research on it.

Commissioner Simpkins stated item 7.h, *Approval to Reinstate an Agreement between the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners and the Gadsden Community Health Council to assist with the Prescription Assistance Medical Assistance Program Funding*, should be under general business since it has a fiscal impact. She also asked that Item 11.h, *Approval of Settlement Agreement with Georgette Daniels*, be pulled because they stated they were going to do a policy.

The County Attorney stated they should approve the amendments and then go to consent and pulls item to discuss.

**COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION FOR ITEM 11.H TO BE PULLED AND
COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 TO APPROVE.**

Commissioner Holt stated she did not realize she was voting for the item to be pulled and wanted to change her vote.

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION FOR ITEM 11.H TO BE PULLED AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 2-3 TO DENY THIS MOTION AND KEEP ITEM 11.H ON THE AGENDA.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

6. Awards, Presentations and Appearances

6.a. – Recognition of Mother Maudie Lee Green Nealy

Chair Green asked for Ms. Nealy to come forward and he presented the recognition to her.

Chair Green gave recognition to Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith. This will be his last board meeting.

6.b. – Tourist Development Council Presentation:

Ms. Steele provided a presentation on TDC. Mr. Lewis appeared and provided a presentation regarding the Golden Triangle Mississippi trip.

CONSENT

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH EXCEPTION OF ITEMS 7.G AND 7.H AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Hinson asked to discuss item 7.g and Commissioner Simpkins requested to discuss item 7.h. Commissioner Hinson stated items 11.e and 11.f are normally under public hearings. Mr. Williams stated those budget amendments have been under consent in the past. Chair Green stated it was properly advertised and citizens could always request to speak.

Commissioner Hinson stated at the last meeting, they voted to cancel the November 5 meeting. This could be an illegal meeting as the board did not vote for a November 4 meeting. He asked for an opinion from the county attorney. Chair Green stated he asked for them to call commissioners to see if they wanted to have the meeting and he was told that the commissioners agreed to have this meeting. Chair Green asked if it was properly advertised and Mr. Dixon stated yes. The County Attorney stated he did call Commissioner Hinson about this. He stated he could not get it back to him in writing on time.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 7:07 p.m.

Commissioner Holt returned at 7:09 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson stated they did not want to set a precedent. Chair Green stated Commissioner Hinson could have stated he was unavailable for today's meeting. Commissioner Simpkins stated she was told they were having this meeting; they did not ask if she was available.

Chair Green asked the attorney if this meeting was illegal. Mr. Williams stated under section 125.001, it talks about board meetings; they do have meetings on the first and third Tuesday statutorily. But there is a section that states regular and special meetings can be held in any appropriate public place in the county. So, that allows them to have a meeting other than first and third Tuesday of the month.

Mr. Williams stated to have a motion to ratify this as a regular meeting.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO RATIFY AS A REGULAR MEETING AND
COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.**

7.

7.a – Ratification Memo

7.b – BOCC Meeting/ Workshop Minutes:

1. September 17, 2024, Economic Development Workshop
2. September 24, 2024, 2nd Budget Public Hearing
3. September 24, 2024, Emergency Meeting
4. October 1, 2024, Regular BOCC Meeting

7.c – Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Liens and Contracts – State Housing Initiative Partnership Program (SHIP)

7.d. – Approval and Signatures for Satisfaction of Special Assessment Lien State Housing Initiative Partnership Program (SHIP)

7.e – Approval of Payment to Emerald Coast Striping

7.f – Approval of a Letter to Governor Ron DeSantis in Support of Reintroducing Passenger Rail to North Florida

7.g – Approval of Selling Surplus Vehicles at Auction

7.h – Approval to Reinstate Memorandum of Agreement between the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners and the Gadsden County Health Council to assist with the Prescription Assistance Medical Assistance Program Funding

7.i – Approval of the Finance Office to Process Payment for the 3rd Annual HOLA Gadsden

8. Items Pulled for Discussion

7.g – Approval of Selling Surplus Vehicles at Auction

Commissioner Hinson asked how could he go to this event and what day is this taking place. Mr. Young stated it was last Saturday. Chair Green stated they technically could not vote on this item since it already took place.

Commissioner Holt stated this item will have to be discussed and brought back. Chair Green asked if all the vehicles were sold. Mr. Dixon stated he was not aware.

Chair Green asked who coordinated this auction and Mr. Young stated it was Charles Hayes and the Fleet manager. Charles Hayes appeared before the board. He stated Enterprise only offered \$1,000 for it so that was why they separated it.

Chair Green asked who gave authority to do it in that manner; he would have liked to be a part of that conversation.

Commissioner Simpkins also asked who gave authority; she had a problem with this as well. She felt like they knew that this had to come before the board before it went to an auction. She asked if they already signed over titles and Mr. Hayes stated yes.

Chair Green stated documentation from the auction should have been included as well. Mr. Dixon stated this caught him off guard as well. He asked to bring this back with a written report.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS ITEM AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

7.h – Approval to Reinstate Memorandum of Agreement between the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners and the Gadsden County Health Council to assist with the Prescription Assistance Medical Assistance Program Funding

Commissioner Simpkins asked about the funding. Mr. Dixon stated the funds were coming directly from the county; when the board initiated its no funding for non-profits, the funding stopped.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if they still receive funds from the Department of Health. Reverend Hannah, President, stated yes.

Mr. Dixon stated the money comes from the board and given to Department of Health; it was from the half cent sales tax.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she wanted specifics; it was a broad item.

Chair Green stated it needed to be more detailed as to what services are being provided and what funding they already receive. Rev. Hannah stated it was their desire to provide services. They have already gone to Havana and plan to go to Midway. They will come back with more details and what they plan on doing.

Commissioner Holt stated she would like the schedule of where the bus will be; wants a workshop on this.

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

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 Green read aloud the above statement.

Marion Lasley, 5 Dante Court, Quincy, FL

Ms. Lasley appeared regarding cease-and-desist letter from Special Magistrate Paul Arnold to Alicia Bopp regarding Champs Chance dog rescue. She stated Ms. Bopp has not stopped her activities and has done a poor job on re-capturing her escapees. Ms. Lasley complained about the barking and smell of feces.

The County Attorney stated there was an order on September 23rd stating this activity should be terminated. Alicia Bopp filed an appeal October 21st and the county is in litigation right now. Comments about this would be premature, as we go through the appeal process.

10. Public Hearing

11. General Business

11.a Approval of Titel VI Nondiscrimination Policy and Plan

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. The item is presented to the board for the approval of Titel VI Nondiscrimination Policy and Plan. This is part of the LAP Program and in order to qualify for federal assistance, they must have the approved Titel VI Nondiscrimination Policy and Plan to continue to receive any current funding for the LAP program. Which accepts and processes complaints for discrimination based on race, color, national origin, sex, age, and disability.

Commissioner NeSmith asked Mr. Williams if he had looked at a previous document for compliance and he said no, he just looked at this document that was brought to him. Mr. Williams stated they needed this for compliance, and also stated they would be

putting forms in place for the complainant to use and to keep them in compliance as there are no forms out there.

COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE TITLE VI NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY AND PLAN AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

11.b Approval to Upgrade the Avtec Radio Dispatch Software

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. The item is presented to the board for the approval to Upgrade the Avtec Radio Dispatch Software. This software is currently being used; however, it is not up to date and needs to be upgraded with a patch.

Kembrew Jackson and Andre Walker appeared before the board, and explained the software was actually bought in 2016, and it was delivered in 2017. Mr. Jackson stated there was licensing for hardware and software, but that is expiring October 2025 and they will no longer have support for this hardware without the patch.

Chair Green stated he would like to know the physical impact and the shift of funds. Mr. Dixon asked Ms. Harris to come forward.

Ms. Harris appeared and stated the funds would be coming from the general fund reserve budget and going into the Information technology budget. Commissioner Simpkins asked for clarity on what budget account the funds were coming from and wanted to make sure the funds are not coming from the reserve. Ms. Harris said they are not coming from the reserve.

Commissioner Hinson stated he wants a workshop on this item to do some research and discuss further what has already been spent for this item.

Representative from communications appeared before the board to explain the original agreement for the software and how the patches would fix the software.

Mr. Dixon stated they know they have a problem, that problem has shown itself, and they are going to continue to have that problem with not being able to dispatch certain people in a timely manner until we fix dispatch.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FUNDING TO UPGRADE THE AVTEC RADIO DISPATCH SOFTWARE AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

11.c Approval to Renew Waste Pro Contract

Item pulled.

11.d Discussion and Approval of Lease Agreement with the City of Quincy for property located at S 9th Street

Item pulled.

11.e Approval of Resolution 25-007 Budget Amendments for FY25

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. The item is presented to the board for the approval of Resolution 25-007 Budget Amendments for FY25.

Commissioner Hinson asked for overview of this item.

Ms. Harris appeared before the board and stated this was a resolution to correct transfers that were done incorrectly during the budget.

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION 25-007 BUDGET AMENDMENTS FOR FY25 AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

11.f Approval of Resolution 24-037 Budget Amendments for FY24

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. The item is presented to the board for the approval of Resolution 24-037 Budget Amendments for FY24. He stated this is to clean up last year's physical budget.

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION 24-037 BUDGET AMENDMENTS FOR FY24 AND CHAIR GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

11.g Board Approval to Award RFP 24-02 Professional Auditing Services to Purvis-Gray and Approval for Staff to Negotiate a Contract

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. The item is presented to the board for the approval to Award RFP 24-02 Professional Auditing Services to Purvis-Gray and Approval for Staff to Negotiate a Contract. This company won the bid by grading score; however, this company is \$20, 000 higher than the other competitor.

Mr. Dixon stated for the record that they are making the recommendation, as it is important to change auditors on a regular basis.

Commissioner Simpkins stated would have liked for other firm to have the opportunity to present as she only had about a week to go through both proposals. She stated they need to be more proactive.

Commissioner Hinson stated the price may be more, but they may bring more. He stated he did not have a problem with Purvis personally.

Mr. Williams stated this contract is not just for the County, it is for all constitutionals. All constitutionals reviewed, voted, and scored both proposals. They have looked at all the options but what is stopping the board is that the contract is for all constitutionals.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO NEGOTIATE THE LENGTH OF THE CONTRACT TO APPROVE THE AWARDDING FOR RFP 24-02 PROFESSIONAL AUDITING SERVICES TO PURVIS-GRAY AND APPROVAL FOR STAFF TO NEGOTIATE A CONTRACT AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

11.h Approval of Settlement Agreement with Georgette Daniels

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. The item is presented to the board for the approval of Settlement Agreement with Georgette Daniels. This is a separation agreement that is common among select exempt staff.

Commissioner Simpkins stated when this item was brought to the board, they pulled the item because there was no policy and they were going to put a policy in place. She stated she has done research, and this is not something Counties normally do, this is private sector policy where they give severance packages.

Commissioner Hinson asked if they could table the item until they have a workshop to discuss this item further.

Chair Green stated he was ready to approve this item with a termination policy in place going forward, but he now has concerns with the administration as to why the workshop that was requested to discuss this item further had not happened, but the item was brought back.

Mr. Dixon stated they have not had the workshop simply because the attorney has not had the time for them. He stated Commissioner NeSmith requested this item be brought back, and that is why it was.

Commissioner Holt stated they need to look into the termination policy because people are terminated all the time.

Mr. Williams stated this issue has not been resolved yet. He also stated there are no pending lawsuits, so he thought it was a proper issue to bring back before the board after discussion so they would understand the 2 issues don't have to be coupled.

Commissioner Hinson stated he thinks they should table this item until they can have a workshop. He stated they are opening a can of worms if they don't go through the process first.

CHAIR GREEN MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THE ITEM AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

12. Clerk of Court

No updates.

13. County Attorney

No updates.

14. County Administrator

Mr. Dixon stated they received the grants summary on movement of grants on what they have out there. He said they did a walk thru of Stevens school, and he will be contacting the Commissioners on the next steps forward.

Mr. Dixon stated they should have received a letter from Federal lobbyist. They are in the 2nd and 3rd year with them, and are glad to see some things are finally starting to come home as they picked up 1. some odd million dollars.

Mr. Dixon stated they are looking at a meeting on the legislature calendar for the big items that will come forward. The state legislature will meet in March, and everyone on the Federal level is waiting on the election tomorrow before they move forward with the million that will help them with Pat Thomas Parkway over to Joe Adams Road.

Mr. Dixon stated they will have a non-profit meeting this month. There is also a DOT 5-year work plan meeting scheduled later this month to discuss the 5-year work plan.

Mr. Dixon stated the Publics works director has come up with a striping list for the county inclusive of all 5 districts, and he will get it out to the Commissioners the next day. Mr. Dixon stated the list is approximately \$800, 000 dollars.

15. Discussion Items by Commissioners

15.a Commissioner Eric F. Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson stated he wants to make sure everyone goes out to vote tomorrow. He stated that 52% of Gadsden County had already voted, and we just 48% more to go.

Commissioner Hinson stated Halloween was fun in Gadsden County this year. He stated it was good to see all the kids out smiling, and it's all about the fellowship.

Commissioner Hinson mentioned bulky item pick-up, and that district 1 was the only one not advertised. Asked Mr. Dixon if they could re-run bulky item pick-up for district 1.

Commissioner Simpkins stepped out at 9:03 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson stated he would like to give a proclamation to FAMU Baseball Coach.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO GIVE PROCLAMATION TO FAMU BASEBALL COACH AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Simpkins returned at 9:04 p.m.

15.b Commissioner Kimblin E. NeSmith, J.D., District 3

Commissioner NeSmith asked about Hardaway Highway and the final inspection. Mr. Young appeared and stated they were still trying to set up the final inspection.

Commissioner NeSmith asked about Providence Road in the Sawdust community, and Mr. Young stated 100% design is done and they are just waiting to be informed that they can proceed.

Commissioner NeSmith asked about Aspalaga road, and Mr. Young stated he has not heard about it yet.

Commissioner NeSmith asked about Rowan Road, and Mr. Young stated he had not heard anything about it.

Commissioner NeSmith asked Mr. Dixon about Lincoln Drive and mentioned how the seniors will now be using the new mature facility on Lincoln Drive and there is a rough patch. Mr. Dixon stated it was part of the striping list he mentioned but it had not made their list for road repair.

Commissioner NeSmith asked about the state funds and federal dollars being available for road repair as driving on the road is infrastructure. Mr. Dixon stated yes, they do, however that's the money that was talked about to be set aside for ARPA.

Commissioner NeSmith asked Mr. Dixon about the Summer Youth program 2025. Budget, and Mr. Dixon said they don't have it.

Commissioner NeSmith thanked Ms. In the Sawdust community for the 1st annual trunk or treat that they put together. Also thanked the Parks and recreation director, Ms. Moya and Mr. Dixon as well for their help, along with thanking all the volunteers.

Commissioner NeSmith thanked the Commissioners for letting him serve these past 4 years. He will still be available for any questions.

15.c Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt mentioned having a regional evacuation center in the event of hurricanes. She said Franklin County along with other counties along the coast would like to join forces and apply for federal funding. Stated she spoke with a state representative about this, and also left a message for the state senator.

Commissioner Holt stated she spoke with Mr. Franklin about industrial development. She said she hopes they can look at it and take it seriously.

Commissioner NeSmith stepped out at 9:28 p.m.

15.d Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2

Commissioner Simpkins asked Mr. Dixon if Jaimeson Road was on his striping list, and he said yes, Jaimeson Road is on it.

Commissioner Hinson stepped out at 9:31 p.m.

Commissioner Simpkins asked about Dog Town road, and Mr. Young stated 60% design.

Commissioner Simpkins asked about Selman Road research and funding for a sidewalk. Mr. Young stated they did speak with an engineer on that, but right now they're trying to figure out the cost.

Commissioner NeSmith returned at 9:32 p.m.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned that she had been studying Bainbridge. She said it would be beneficial to have conversations with them, as Bainbridge is doing well because of collaborations.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned community clean up in St. Hebron & St. Matthew on Saturday November 9th beginning at 7:30am-12pm.

15.e Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5

Chair Green stated the traffic light on Pat Thomas Parkway was back working.

Chair Green asked about Spooner Road, and Mr. Young stated they did a walk thru this morning with the final walk thru this Thursday so he would let Chair Green know what time it is.

Chair Green stated he would like bulky item pick-up to be explained better with more detail as far as the process goes. Mr. Dixon stated he was going to develop some community signage for the bulky item pick-up.

Commissioner Simpkins stated that district 2 has a lot of dead trees and trash on the road that needs to be picked up. Also requested that the trash be picked up before mowing cause it's not happening so the trash is just being cut up.

Chair Green thanked everyone who participated with homecoming for both high schools, and also the FAMU homecoming parade. He also congratulated Cross Roads Academy on 1st place for their homecoming parade float for the 2nd year in a row as this was only their 2nd year in the parade.

Chair Green mentioned issues with wild hogs, and concerned citizens who have walked out to them sitting on their front porch. Wanted to know when they can come in to rectify the situation.

Chair Green stated they have to get the cameras installed because there are certain areas where there is constant dumping. Commissioner Simpkins stated she spoke with Flock regarding the cameras, and the portable cameras have been shipped out but the stationary cameras have not as they are waiting on DOT approval.

Mr. Dixon asked if they were at liberty to help the football team. Chair Green stated he was glad Mr. Dixon brought this up and they are going to have to buy into our kids. Chair Green asked if Mr. Dixon could get them some numbers so they can meet with staff and the schools to find out what they can do.

16. Motion to Adjourn

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN DECLARED
THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:55 PM.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**Ronterious Green, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON NOVEMBER 19, 2024 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 Woods, District 3
 Brenda A. Holt, District 4
 Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
 Thornton Williams, County Attorney
 Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk
 Leann Jinks, Assistant BOCC Secretary

1. Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Green called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. Pastor led into Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

Chair Green stated Judge Kathy Garner will swear in the commissioners. Chair Green was sworn in by Judge Garner as a re-elected commissioner for District 5. Chair Green stated they will recess until Commissioner Hinson's family arrives.

Commissioner Shawn Wood was sworn in by Judge Garner as a new commissioner for District 3. Commissioner Hinson was sworn in by the Judge as a re-elected commissioner for District 1.

2. Amendments and Approval of Agenda

Mr. Dixon stated they have an amendment to add item 10.a, Public Hearing: Approval of Resolution 24-028 General and Grant Budget Amendments for FY2024.

Commissioner Wood requested to add item 11.c, Discussion of an External Investigation of The County.

COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE A MOTION TO ADD UNDER GENERAL BUSINESS ITEM 11.C, DISCUSSION OF AN EXTERNAL INVESTIGATION OF THE COUNTY AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

6. Awards, Presentations, and Appearances

6.a - Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER HINSON AS CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE A MOTION TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER GREEN AS VICE-CHAIR AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

7. CONSENT

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

7.a – Ratification Memo

7.b – BOCC Meeting/Workshop Minutes:

1. October 9, 2024, ARPA Workshop
2. October 15, 2024, Regular BOCC Meeting
3. October 22, 2024, Special Meeting

7.c – Approval of the Judicial Inquiry System (JIS) Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) – Access Certification Statement

7.d – Approval of the Community Development Grant (CDBG) Lead Base Paint Inspection Agreement

7.e – Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Liens and Contracts - State Housing Initiative Partnership Program (SHIP)

7.f – Approval of 2025 Holiday Schedule

7.g – Approval of the Annual Contract between the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners and the Florida Department of Health for the Operations of the Gadsden County Health Department

7.h – Approval of Microsoft Enterprise Annual Renewal

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.

Rodney Moore, 1404 St. Hebron Road

Mr. Moore appeared before the board to discuss the County Administrator. He stated it was time for a change and Mr. Dixon needed to go. He also mentioned billing for the county attorney. He advised to go to Bainbridge to be shown what needed to be done in regards to economic development.

Michael Brown, 588 Charles Brown Lane

Mr. Brown appeared before the board and asked commissioners to represent the people.

Tracey Stallworth, P.O Box 1339

Mr. Stallworth appeared to discuss the Mississippi trip. It was important to him as a planning commissioner.

Dorothy Thomas, 586 Shiloh Road, Quincy FL

Ms. Thomas appeared to discuss the Mississippi trip.

Derrick Elias, 233 Cheeseborough Ave, Quincy FL

Mr. Elias appeared before the board. He stated if they always agree, they will never change or grow. He stated the trips they take for economic development are fine if they actually come back and put some of those things into action.

Mr. Elias stated he expects a whole lot more from the County Administrator if they are making \$104k. He stated it was rare that they actually have items on agenda. The commissioners are responsible for letting the County Administrator know what they want on the agenda.

Commissioner Green stepped out at 6:55 p.m.

10. Public Hearing

10.a Public Hearing: Approval of Resolution 2024-028 General and Grant Budget Amendments for FY2024

Chair Hinson asked the County Attorney if they were in line with their ordinance with having this public hearing. The County Attorney stated the notice complied with the statute. It was advertised five days prior to the hearing.

Mr. Dixon presented the item. He stated this is presented to the Board for approval of Resolution 2024-038 and authorization for the County Administrator and Finance Director to

complete and execute all budget amendments necessary to maintain a balanced budget for the Fiscal Year 2024 BOCC budget.

Derrick Elias appeared and asked to let everyone know what they were attempting to do.

Mr. Dixon stated there was a LAP Grant to build the Adams Street sidewalk in the amount of \$1,046,340.00. The next amendment was for a FDLE Salary Assistance Grant in the amount of \$657,697.00. There are library donations in the amount of \$6,265.16. The next amendment was for EMPA Grant in the amount of \$119,126.00. Mr. Dixon stated there was a budget fund to set up new ambulance debt in the amount of \$368,060.00 and there was an amendment to transfer from Fund 001 in the amount of \$374,000.00.

Commissioner Simpkins asked to expand on the Fund 001 transfer. Mr. Dixon stated it was set up to fund for new ambulances.

Commissioner Green returned at 7:02 p.m.

Commissioner Wood asked if this was the last meeting that they were allowed to do budget amendments and Mr. Dixon stated no, they could do that in every meeting. Ms. Janice Harris appeared before the board and stated they will have budget amendments that come before the board throughout the year. This item was coming from the Finance Director.

Commissioner Green stepped out at 7:03 p.m.

Commissioner Green returned at 7:05 p.m.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE ITEM 10.A AND COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

11. General Business

11.a Approval to Renew of Waste Pro Contract

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. This agenda item seeks Board approval to renew the Solid Waste Franchise Agreement with Waste Pro of Florida, Inc. and to authorize the Chairman to sign the new agreement. Staff negotiated an extremely competitive rate for solid waste services for County residents. Additionally, the County has been receiving a 10% franchise fee from Waste Pro each year.

This renewal Agreement has additional terms and conditions for Waste Pro and for the County, as well as updated general terms of the Agreement.

1. Waste Pro has agreed to provide curb side assistance to senior citizens that cannot bring their waste containers to the curb.

2. Additionally, Waste Pro will notify the County if there is a change of schedule and will discuss the change with the County prior to implementation.

3. Waste Pro will receive a 3.5% increase for the first year and a 3.5% increase for the second year as a negotiated inflationary 7% increase for the next 5 years.

4. Lastly, Waste Pro has agreed to provide a corporate presence in the County to support county activities with at least a \$15,000.00 contribution per year.

There is no fiscal impact in terms of expenditure of funds from the County. Under the franchise agreement the County will receive 10% of the gross receipts collected quarterly. The County received a franchise fee of \$230,842.02 in franchise fees in 2023.

Commissioner Wood stepped out at 7:09 p.m.

The County Attorney stated this was a franchise agreement. When they negotiated with the Waste Pro Representative, they agreed to eliminate the automatic renewal provision. If they were to get to the end of the term, and for some reason it was not negotiated out, Waste Pro agreed that the agreement does not terminate. They have 180 days to complete any negotiations.

Commissioner Wood returned at 7:10 p.m.

Mr. Loyd Childree, Waste Pro Representative, appeared before the board. Commissioner Simpkins asked why there was a difference in fee when compared to Leon County. Mr. Childree stated service was geared towards density. When they go out to rural communities, there is not as much density. They could be driving a mile before they get to the next house to service.

Commissioner Green asked about other bids. Mr. Dixon stated they looked at an invitation to bid; they thought Waste Pro was the best opportunity. The County Attorney stated the request was for a 7% increase for one year and they were able to negotiate a 3.5% increase for the first and second year.

Commissioner Holt asked if they do large items pickup. Mr. Childree stated there is a bulk item pick up and he believed it was once a month; they would have to call it in. Mr. Williams stated there were amendments to the agreement. He asked to delete section 5.5 from the motion and authorize modifications based on scriveners' errors. Chair Hinson asked if they only pick up certain things and Mr. Childree stated it was based on volume.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE ITEM 11.A WITH THE AMENDMENTS OF DELETING SECTION 5.5 AND TO AUTHORIZE MODIFICATIONS BASED ON SCRIVENOR'S ERRORS. COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND AND THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

11.b City of Gretna Request to Enter into an Interlocal Agreement for the ownership transfer of Unimproved Roadway Known as Clifford Johnson Road

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. This item seeks Board approval of an Interlocal Agreement for the ownership transfer of an unimproved roadway known as Clifford Johnson

Road, owned by Gadsden County and execution of a proposed right of way deed, deeding the unimproved roadway to the City of Gretna.

Mr. Williams stated he has spoken with Mr. Knowles and he was present as well. Harold Knowles, Attorney for City of Gretna, appeared before the board. Mr. Knowles stated there was a 15-day period from which the County could approve the interlocal agreement and they were requesting that timeline be reduced to 48 hours.

The County Attorney stated they were waiting on the final legal description. He thanked the board for allowing them to get the survey done and he was in agreement with expediting this. They do not have the survey yet, so, they could not get the legal description yet. Mr. Knowles stated that they had assured him the legal description would be there tonight. Mr. Williams stated that Mr. Knowles assured him that the legal description he gave him was accurate and it was not. Mr. Knowles asked when will the survey be available. Mr. Williams stated the goal was tonight but they expect to have it in the next day or so. Mr. Knowles stated this was an execution issue and not a survey issue.

Commissioner Green asked if they could approve this with the expectation of waiting for the legal description. Mr. Williams stated yes, that was his recommendation – approve the interlocal agreement upon all documents being in place and they do not have to come back for a second review.

Commissioner Simpkins asked about the legal description. Mr. Williams stated the county surveyor would provide it. Mr. Knowles stated their problem was that this has taken 3 months to get done and the project has been on hold.

Mr. Williams mentioned going from 15 days to 10 days and Mr. Knowles stated that was unacceptable. Commissioner Wood stated this was his district and he thought it was a great project for the City of Gretna. They were putting 50 jobs in his district with this project.

Commissioner Simpkins requested to be cc'd in emails to know the time frame of when the legal description will be available.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT AND EXECUTION OF RIGHT OF WAY DEED CONVEYING OWNERSHIP OF CLIFFORD JOHNSON ROAD TO CITY OF GRETNA AND GETTING LEGAL DESCRIPTION WITHOUT COMING BACK TO THE BOARD. COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND AND THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

11.c Discussion of an External Investigation of the County

Commissioner Wood requested this item to be added on the agenda. Commissioner Green stated after they have a process, appropriate actions will be taken. The County Attorney stated when they ask questions, they need to keep it more general.

Ms. Burroughs appeared before the board. Commissioner Green asked if she had a timeline of her part being done. Ms. Burroughs stated hopefully by the end of the week.

Commissioner Simpkins stated there needs to be an external investigation. Chair Hinson asked if there was a policy for investigations and Ms. Burroughs stated the policy does exist. Commissioner Green stated he was in favor of an external investigation when it gets to that point; allow HR to do due diligence.

Commissioner Wood stated it would protect an employee if they decide to do an external investigation. Mr. Dixon stated they have contacted law enforcement and that he will go to them with facts.

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

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 8:18 p.m.

Commissioner Simpkins stated the policy was not being followed. Mr. Williams stated the employee is being interviewed. Commissioner Hinson stated the Attorney was telling the County Administrator to silence himself without Board approval.

Commissioner Wood returned at 8:19 p.m.

Commissioner Holt returned at 8:20 p.m.

Commissioner Holt stated she would like for the person who hired them to not be a part of the investigation.

Commissioner Wood stated he was not talking policy; he was talking statutory. Colonel appeared before the board and recommended them to contact FDLE and take the Sheriff out of it.

Derrick Elias appeared. He stated they need to specify what they are investigating. He stated it was not fair for Ms. Burroughs to investigate her boss and it would do them a great service to allow an outside entity to conduct an investigation.

Mr. Williams stated if they go from a non-criminal to criminal, they have to specify that the criminal activity is “alleged”.

COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE A MOTION TO ASK EXTERNAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TO INVESTIGATE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

12. Clerk of Courts

There were no updates from the Clerk.

13. County Attorney

Mr. Williams mentioned that there have been concerns regarding billing. He stated he has been keeping track of what he has done and when. When he came on board, the billing that he has seen was more than what he expected and there were reasons why. He stated he has been practicing law for 43 years and he had never seen a backlog of cases that he has right now.

Mr. Williams stated he has a marketing agreement that had been sitting out since February of this year and it should have been done before he got there. He stated the marketing agreement was practically not done at all and he had to start from scratch to get that done. Then, they had a Waste Pro Agreement where if it had not been done, they would have no garbage services for the county. He stated this should have been done before he got on the board. If these items had been done before he got there, then his billings would have been lower. Mr. Williams stated he still has a 3-million-dollar agreement that he has to work out for the Boys & Girls Club. He also had to work on the County Health Department fuel agreements that had been pending. They had a graphic design contract that had also been pending since February.

Mr. Williams stated he just finished up the auditing services contract. That contract had expired. Regarding Economic Development, he stated there is an RFP that he has to review. He also mentioned that there are ordinances that need to be updated.

Mr. Williams stated that any lawyer that has been in business for a long time will at some point lose a client, and when they no longer have that client, they transfer files from where they are to the new attorney. He stated he has yet to have a meeting with the previous county attorney. Mr. Williams stated he has called him to have a meeting to discuss what files he had. His response to Mr. Williams was that if he needs something, to let him know.

Commissioner Green stepped out at 8:35 p.m.

Commissioner Simpkins stepped out at 8:35 p.m.

Mr. Williams stated Mr. Pittman tried to assist him with this, and he gave him his files but it was inadequate for him to be able to understand where they were. Mr. Williams stated that in all of his experience, he has never had a public records request lawsuit. He stated he has no cooperation from the previous attorney regarding what was going on with the lawsuit.

Commissioner Simpkins returned at 8:38 p.m.

Commissioner Green returned at 8:42 p.m.

Mr. Williams stated he has never billed for conversations with commissioners because they should have the right to talk to him freely.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if those contracts were provided to the previous attorney and they were just not completed. Mr. Dixon stated yes. Commissioner Simpkins asked to get sent the emails regarding those contracts. Commissioner Green thanked Mr. Williams but for his analysis, but the individual from that firm was not there for representation.

14. County Administrator

Mr. Dixon stated he had spoken with the last two chairmen over the past couple years about the previous attorney. He stated there have been many nights where the commissioners chastised him and stated the attorney worked for them. It was not his job to question the attorney; it was theirs. He stated there were many nights that the Commissioners asked him why were certain people preparing a package and it was because they could not get the previous attorney to prepare them. Contracts are dealt by the attorney.

Mr. Dixon stated he accepted this job wholeheartedly. He accepted it based on what they offered, a salary of \$105k. That same salary was turned down by Mr. Elias two or three times. Mr. Dixon stated when he got this job, the county was millions of dollars in debt and they could find nobody to work there.

Mr. Dixon stated he did not ask the board for a county car, just the car allowance which is \$600 a month. He stated the county did not buy him a \$80k car, he bought it.

Mr. Dixon mentioned the electric bill next door and stated the bill was being paid by the Clerk's office. He stated the board had nothing to do with the continuation of that. Mr. Dixon stated the board had met a few times to discuss the lease program. He stated Derrick Elias was in the room when they discussed it. There was no scheme going on; they were spending \$700,000 on cars annually and now they are spending \$350,000 less on leasing 30 cars.

15. Discussion Items by Commissioners

15.a Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2

Commissioner Simpkins stated to Commissioner Holt that it was very disrespectful what she said earlier and she would never have disrespected her like that on the dais.

Commissioner Simpkins stated when she decided to seek office, it was not to deal with this kind of stuff. She wanted there to be a difference in the county and to have growth and development taking place. In order for that to happen, they are going to have to put their personal agendas to the side. Commissioner Simpkins stated citizens have the right to public information and the county should not be getting a public records lawsuit. She felt that they could do better as a county.

Commissioner Simpkins stated to Mr. Dixon that she did not think they beat up on the staff. Commissioner Simpkins mentioned the wild game and stated over a thousand people attended. They have people coming from all over to participate in that event. She stated hats off to Across the Tracks.

15.b Commissioner Shawn Wood, District 3

Commissioner Wood stated he ran for office to prove a point. If they do not figure out how to all get along, they are going to fail. He stated he has known the guys from Integrity for many years and he did not like what they went through. He mentioned the 3-year contract

with Mr. Williams. He stated Mr. Williams was a sharp guy but he did not feel like he was his lawyer; he was the other commissioner's lawyer. If they could have waited another month, he would have been a part of the process of appointing a new county attorney. The program was put together for him and he did not like it.

Commissioner Wood stated their number one priority should be the schools. They need to work with their high school to make them successful. Mr. Dixon stated they went to the legislature; they were not uninvolved.

15.c Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt stated money has to be spent in a timely manner. She wanted them to their kids more opportunities.

15.d Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO PAY A BILL OF \$7800 FOR THE TRIP TAKEN AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 3-1 TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER WOOD OPPOSED.

Commissioner Green mentioned the Boys & Girls Club and asked for an update. Mr. Dixon stated they were waiting on the contract. Mr. Williams stated he had a conversation with the City Attorney and they agreed on concepts and are now in the graphic stage.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION FOR COUNTY OFFICE TO BE CLOSED ON NOVEMBER 27 AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Green mentioned having a recognition for Dale Summerford and Shirley Green Knight. They could have a more detailed conversation about this at a later time.

15.e Commissioner Eric F. Hinson, District 1

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO TERMINATE THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE THE SECOND WITH DISCUSSION.

Commissioner Holt stated when she got on the board, she did not worry about who the administrator was nor the attorney. She felt like this was not a good idea because they need to look at how they were going to transition. She stated they had a lot of problems before with two other county administrators. They need to keep the county running and have a process in place.

Commissioner Green stated he would like to come up with a process first and they need a plan. He stated that they talk about moving forward but this will put them to a stop. He would like to see other opportunities they may have but, to follow a process.

Chair Hinson stated about 2 months ago, the board fired the previous county attorney immediately.

Commissioner Wood stated that the word transition was brought up. He was not allowed a transition, they did it for him. He stated he will be the third vote, but will listen to what Commissioner Green and Commissioner Holt have to say about this to maybe change his mind.

Commissioner Green stated the County Attorney contract had ended in February; they did not just fire the law firm. Pittman Law Group did not re-apply for the job. He stated he wanted to just bring clarity to that.

Commissioner Holt stated the County Attorney contract was already up. During the transition period, there was plenty of time to turn the contracts over and get them done. The issue with her was that even though she and Mr. Dixon had several disagreements, he did more than the last two County Administrators.

CHAIR HINSON MADE THE MOTION TO TERMINATE THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER HOLT AND COMMISSIONER GREEN OPPOSED.

Commissioner Hinson made the motion for Roger Milton for the interim County Administrator. Commissioner Holt stated to give it to someone who at least is familiar with county government. Commissioner Green said to give an opportunity to someone who has been here before. Commissioner Holt mentioned Roosevelt Morris as interim County Administrator.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR ROOSEVELT MORRIS TO SERVE AS INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR FOR 2 MONTHS. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

Mr. Dixon thanked them for the opportunity to serve them and stated it has been his pleasure. He stated this was politics, it happens.

16 Motion to Adjourn

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HINSON DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:08 PM.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON DECEMBER 2, 2024 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 Holt, District 4
 Roosevelt Morris, Interim County Administrator
 Thornton Williams, County Attorney
 Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk
 Leann Jinks, Clerk Secretary to the Boards

1. Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Hinson called meeting to order at 6 p.m. Chair Hinson led into Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

5. Amendments and Approval of Agenda

Chair Hinson stated there is a limit of 6 minutes total for comments from Commissioners per item being discussed before the board broken down as follows; 3 minutes for discussion, 2 minutes for rebuttal, and 1 minute for closing.

Mr. Morris requested to pull item 11.i, Discussion and Direction on the Former County Administrator's Severance Pay.

Mr. Morris requested to add item 11.K, Board Approval of a Task Order with The Integrity Group to Assist the County to Comply and Meet Deadlines for FEMA Disaster Recovery Reporting and Completion of Florida-Recovery Obligation Calculation (F-ROC) and 11.L, Board Approval of a Task Order with The Integrity Group to Assist the County to Comply and Meet Deadlines According to US Treasury Rules for ARPA Funds.

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Chair Hinson requested approval of the agenda.

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

6. Awards, Presentations, and Appearances

6.a CareerSource Capital Region Presentation

Representative from CareerSource was not there to do presentation.

7. Consent

Mr. Williams stated item 7.d, Approval of Sheriff's Office – Automated School Zone Traffic Enforcement Permitting Letters on County Letterhead. He stated the letters were to be to the vendors, but he received a call stating the letters need to be to the Florida Department of Transportation. He stated the request is to still approve the letters, and authorizing them to make the letters out to the proper party.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE ITEM 7.d WITH AMENDMENTS AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

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

7.a - Ratification Memo

7.b - BOCC Meeting/Workshop Minutes:

1. November 4, 2024, Regular BOCC Meeting
2. November 19, 2024 Regular BOCC Meeting

7.c – Approval of Library Annual Plan of Service 2024-2025

7.d – Approval of Sheriff's Office – Automated School Zone Traffic Enforcement Permitting Letters on Letterhead

7.e – Approval of the Bridging Barriers, LLC Contract

7.f – Approval and Signature on the E911 2024 Fall Rural County Grant Award Acceptance for Eventide NexLog DX Voice Recorder Annual Support, Warranty, and Maintenance

7.g – Approval of County EMS Award Grant

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 some of the above statement.

10. Public Hearing

11. General Business

11.a Approval of Fairbanks Ferry Road – Agreement

Mr. Morris presented the above item. This agenda item seeks Board approval of Fairbanks Ferry Road - Agreement. This agreement is resurfacing of County Road 12 to the Leon County Line. He stated there is no fiscal impact, as this is financed through The Department of Transportation SCOP program.

Chair Hinson asked if this work included widened the road as there have been several deaths on that road. Mr. Young appeared before the Board and said, 'no it was resurfacing of existing road.'

Chair Hinson asked what the cost would be on widening the road. Mr. Young stated he was not sure, but he could get him a price. Chair Hinson said he would like that as he just wants to make that road safer.

Commissioner Wood asked about improvement of the bridge on Fairbanks Ferry. Mr. Young stated has not heard anything about the bridge improvement.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FAIRBANKS FERRY ROAD - AGREEMENT AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

11.b Approval of FL Department of Health, Bureau of EMS Matching Grant

Mr. Morris presented the above item. This agenda item seeks Board approval of FL Department of Health, Bureau of EMS Matching Grant. This grant is for Gadsden County to improve their Emergency Medical Services. This is a 75/25 matching grant with the County responsible for 25%.

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF FL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, BUREAU OF EMS MATCHING GRANT AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

11.c Request Board Approval of Modification #1 to the State Funded to Hurricane Shelter Retrofit Contract #F0100 for retrofitting of the Gadsden County Hospital to be utilized as a Special Needs Evacuation Shelter

Mr. Morris presented the above item. This agenda item seeks Board approval of Modification #1 to the State Funded to Hurricane Shelter Retrofit Contract #F0100 for retrofitting of the Gadsden County Hospital to be utilized as a Special Needs Evacuation Shelter. This modification is the number of beds as the number reported originally was in error. The original number was around 700, but the actual total is 244.

Commissioner Holt asked if that would allow room for any other vendors or is capital regional have priority over who comes in.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if they have started with this at all. Mr. Morris stated they are in the administrative portion of it now but have had engineers come out to look at the site.

Commissioner Green stated they need to have a working workshop with people that have built hospitals.

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.d Appointment of Gadsden County Representative and Alternate to the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency

Mr. Morris presented the above item. This agenda item seeks Board approval of Gadsden County Representative and Alternate to the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency.

Chair Hinson asked for a volunteer. Commissioner Holt said she is interested.

Commissioner Green nominated Commissioner Holt.

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

11.e Appointment to the CareerSource Capital Region Board

Mr. Morris presented the above item. This agenda item seeks Board approval to the Appointment to CareerSource Capital Region Board.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO VOLUNTEER FOR THE APPOINTMENT TO THE CAREERSOURCE CAPITAL REGION BOARD AND COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE TO APPROVE.

11.f Appointment to the Northwest Florida Business Development Council, Inc. dba Opportunity Florida Board

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS NOMINATED COMMISSIONER WOOD FOR THE APPOINTMENT TO THE NORTHWEST FLORIDA BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC. DBA OPPORTUNITY FLORIDA BOARD AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE TO APPROVE.

11.g Appointment to the Inmate Commissary Fund

Chair Hinson stated there is not a necessity to appoint someone at this time, but they could if they want to. The board did not appoint a representative.

11.h Appointment to Tourist Development Council

Commissioner Wood nominated Commissioner Simpkins.

Commissioner Holt stated she is already serving on this board and would like to stay on that board.

COMMISSIONER WOOD NOMINATED COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS FOR THE APPOINTMENT TO TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE TO APPROVE.

~~11.i Discussion and Direction on the Former County Administrator's Severance Pay~~

Item pulled.

11.j Discussion and Direction Regarding the Interim County Administrator's Compensation

Mr. Williams stated at the last meeting, there were comments to pay higher than what he is making now but a salary was not set.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO PAY THE INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR THE SAME SALARY AS THE FORMER COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR AND COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE TO APPROVE.

11.K Board Approval of a Task Order with The Integrity Group to Assist the County to Comply and Meet Deadlines for FEMA Disaster Recovery Reporting and Completion of Florida-Recovery Obligation Calculation (F-ROC)

Mr. Morris presented the above item. This agenda item seeks Board approval of a Task Order with The Integrity Group to Assist the County to Comply and Meet Deadlines for FEMA Disaster Recovery Reporting and Completion of Florida-Recovery Obligation Calculation (F-ROC). Representative John Zarvis from Integrity was there to present item.

Mr. Williams stated in the past with task orders, it appeared to be open ended, and he worked with Ms. Harris to ensure a fixed number.

Chair Hinson stated he had heartburn about budget task order.

John Zharvis, Representative from Integrity appeared and went into more detail about this Agenda item.

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

11.L Board Approval of a Task Order with The Integrity Group to Assist the County to Comply and Meet Deadlines According to US Treasury Rules for ARPA Funds

Mr. Morris presented the above item. This agenda item seeks Board approval of a Task Order with The Integrity Group to Assist the County to Comply and Meet Deadlines According to US Treasury Rules for ARPA Funds.

Ms. Harris appeared before the board.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if they were not able to complete the contracts in house. Ms. Harris stated they were able to be completed and were being monitored. This item is for Integrity's expert help and knowledge on the different laws that are changing.

Commissioner Wood mentioned fire hydrants ISO ratings are thru the roof, and that is also why so many people had tax increases.

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

Clerk of Court

No updates.

13. County Attorney

No updates.

14. County Administrator

Mr. Morris stated there is a Christmas parade scheduled for Friday, and if any Commissioner wanted to take part in it to let him know.

Commissioner Wood stated they need to focus on their children. He would hate to see kids have to choose between the parade or the football game.

Commissioner Green stated parade was probably planned before the game date was decided as they didn't know if the team would advance that far to make playoffs.

Commissioner Holt motioned for \$6k for Gadsden County Football team.

Ms. Steele stated they would have to wear t-shirts to represent Gadsden County if the funds were coming from Travel Development Council.

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION FOR \$10K FOR GADSDEN COUNTY FOOTBALL TEAM AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE TO APPROVE.

15. Discussion Items by Commissioners

15.a Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2

Commissioner Simpkins stated she wanted to get some signage for the football team, something that just says, "Go Jaguars".

Commissioner Simpkins stated there is a lawnmower parade on December 14 at 1 p.m. in Havana.

Commissioner Simpkins stated garbage in the county is out of hand. The construction work trash is being put in different areas of the County instead of taking it to the landfill. Mr. Morris stated it was stated in the building code where they need portable toilets and a dumpster to dispose of properly.

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Commissioner Simpkins stated she wanted to know where they are dropping trash off and if they can start requiring receipts of disposal before the County signs off on the permit.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned Dog Town Road. Mr. Young stated it was at 90% design and hoped to be 100% before Christmas. After that it will have to go back to DOT for review and approval.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned striping and asked if they have funding in place. Mr. Young stated the \$300k was not in budget like he thought it was, as he and Ms. Harris sat down and looked over the budget.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she needs road lines on Jaimeson Road. There are no lights and no lines, so it is very dangerous.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned needing more lighting in the Community, as she has received calls from the elderly saying they cannot see.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she received a request from Florida Association of Registered Nurse Anesthesiologist for a proclamation, as January 19 to January 25 is CRNA Week.

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF REGISTERED NURSE ANESTHESIOLOGIST AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE TO APPROVE.

15.b Commissioner Shawn Wood, District 3

Commissioner Wood stated mega reunions are huge and doing events like that will bring kids back to the community.

Commissioner Wood mentioned the clinic and a standalone Doctor's office in Chattahoochee. He stated the doctor said he would \$40 doctors visit with or without insurance per visit if he can get indigent funding.

Commissioner Simpkins stated they would all need to come to the table with all the clinics and/or doctors that are providing those services all over this County so that we can take care of everybody.

Commissioner Wood mentioned Dr. Cooksey meeting with the Health Department/Health Care Professionals and coming up with plan.

Commissioner Wood wanted them to co-exist with City of Chattahoochee in the capacity of having someone in Chattahoochee 2 days a week to help with Building Permits, planning & zoning, and the VA so they can have a teleconference and pay with a credit card to be able to do what they need to do to deal with the County.

Commissioner Wood mentioned the Sawdust Park, and said the community wants a building at the park for events. Somewhere they can have functions to get out the weather.

Commissioner Wood stated he would love to hear from students to know what the students think they need to do to make the school better.

Commissioner Green stepped out at 7:31 p.m.

Commissioner Green returned at 7:35 p.m.

Commissioner Simpkins stepped out at 7:39 p.m.

15.c Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt stated she needs a list of all the roads that have work done, and the roads that need work to evaluate where they are.

Commissioner Holt stated she would like to have 1 Saturday a month that residence can take their trash to the dump instead of putting it by the side of the road to be collected cause it looks trashy when that's done.

Commissioner Simpkins returned at 7:41 p.m.

Commissioner Holt stated the St. John Park still needs a restroom.

Commissioner Holt asked what the plan with economic development was, and how are they going to get money into economic development.

Commissioner Holt mentioned how Tourist Development Council used to be when she first joined the committee, and how much better it is now.

15.d Commissioner Ronterious Green, Vice-Chair, District 5

Commissioner Green stated Commissioner Simpkins had mentioned an approval for signage in county offices and he did not want to hear back from the Clerk's office that they did not do the appropriate motion for this so he asked if they wanted to do a motion on this.

Commissioner Green stated there will be a golf cart Christmas parade at 6p.m. on December 14 at Ingrams Marina, and a chili cook-off.

Commissioner Wood stepped out at 8:02 p.m.

Commissioner Green stated lightning in the community is a problem, and there needs to be more, especially on the roads.

Commissioner Green mentioned the boys & girls club, and asked Mr. Williams to expand on where they are at with this.

Commissioner Wood returned at 8:03 p.m.

Mr. Williams stated they started review on the contract, and it is a pretty extensive contract. He also stated he doesn't believe there is an issue with funding and plans on having draft out next week for the City attorney to review.

Commissioner Green mentioned process with County Administrator. He stated he wants to make sure they have a fair process this go around to make sure we get the best candidate we can get for this County.

Commissioner Green stated to make sure shelters are readily available due to cold weather, as some of the community does not have a warm place to sleep.

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

Chair Hinson stated they need to advertise for the County Administrator position, and asked Mr. Morris if it was advertised. Mr. Morris stated the position has not been advertised.

Commissioner Simpkins stated they need to discuss the process, and she would like for the community to be involved in the decision.

Chair Hinson stated they should have a workshop on the process for hiring the County Administrator.

Commissioner Wood stated when they start the process, they need to do the process, as he did not like how the process went down with the county attorney.

Chair Hinson requested a proclamation for doctor Mark Newberry's retirement.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR DOCTOR MARK NEWBERRY'S RETIREMENT AND COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE THE SECOND. BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE TO APPROVE.

16. Motion to Adjourn

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HINSON DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:23 PM.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON DECEMBER 9,
2024 AT 6:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING
PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

Present: Eric F. Hinson, Chair, District 1
Ronterious Green, Vice-Chair, District 5, appeared through Zoom
Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2
Shawn Wood, District 3
Brenda Holt, District 4
Roosevelt Morris, Interim County Administrator
Thornton Williams, 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. Chair Hinson led into invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. **Amendments to the Agenda**

Chair Hinson asked if there were any amendments to the agenda and Mr. Morris stated no.

5. **Approval of Agenda**

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED AND COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 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 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.

Tracey Stallworth, P.O. Box 1339 Quincy, FL 32353

Mr. Stallworth appeared and stated Gadsden County has been a topic of discussion. He mentioned the county being involved in another lawsuit with RAC. He stated if they fire the attorney, it would cost around 700k to a million. He asked about the remaining ARPA funds and Chair Hinson stated they have 3.1 million in ARPA funds and they have already been assigned.

Nandrycke Albert, 50 MLK Blvd. Midway, FL

Ms. Albert appeared before the board to discuss legislative session.

7. General Business

7.a Interim County Administrator's Agreement

Commissioner Simpkins stated there was normally not a contract done for interim; she was not sure why they were doing an actual contract. She stated she would like the spending threshold lowered to \$5,000 and to place a hiring freeze.

Commissioner Holt stated she not sure if they could vote on things that were not advertised on the special meeting. Mr. Williams stated they cannot vote if it was not publicly advertised, but they could discuss it. He stated they need to decide first on doing an agreement or not. He was not comfortable with lowering the threshold but they could ask in the contract that any agreements come before the board for approval. Commissioner Green stated he did not see why they should change policies for an interim agreement.

Commissioner Wood stated Mr. Morris was helping them, they are not helping him. Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Morris how many resignations he has gotten and Mr. Morris stated 2. Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Morris what was the delay with Stevens School. Mr. Morris stated the delay was not with the county; they need to wait on the state to say when they can go.

Commissioner Green asked Mr. Morris to answer if he was comfortable taking this role. Mr. Morris stated he was very comfortable with the understanding that this was temporary.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned an email from the Clerk and stated they still have not addressed it. Mr. Morris stated it was still an ongoing investigation. Mr. Williams stated the investigation was confidential; it was not appropriate to get into detail but can give surface details. The Clerk was inquiring about it; did not see any violation of county policy.

Chair Hinson asked Mr. Williams to read the email from the Clerk. Mr. Williams stated the email came in today; normally would do research on it but he has not had time yet and will not provide an opinion on it yet. Chair Hinson stated to give the attorney a couple days to read it and do research.

Commissioner Green stated this email came from the Clerk and it seems like they always get information like that on the day of a meeting. He stated the Clerk should come to meetings.

Bishop Green appeared before the board and expressed his concerns. He stated it is always good to have a plan in place when taking action such as firing the County Administrator.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 6:56 p.m.

Commissioner Holt returned at 6:57 p.m.

COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE A MOTION TO PUT THE INSURANCE PREMIUMS IN PLACE FOR THE INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR AND TO APPROVE SALARY OF \$140,000 RETROACTIVE TO

NOVEMBER 19, 2024. COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND AND THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

7.b Review of County Administrator's Position and Criteria for Advertising

Chair Hinson stated they should table this item due to time constraints. Commissioner Green stated the purpose of this meeting was regarding the administrator and advertising.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned using a headhunter to complete the search for a County Administrator. Commissioner Holt stated to look at the requirements that they want the headhunter to look for.

Ms. Burroughs appeared. She gave an overview of the process for advertising. Commissioner Green stated he would like community input on this process.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO HIRE AN OUTSIDE FIRM TO ASSIST WITH HIRING A COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR AND TO HAVE THE HR DIRECTOR BRING THE INFORMATION BACK TO THE BOARD. COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND AND THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

7.c County Attorney Discussion regarding upcoming SHADE Meeting

County Attorney stated the below SHADE Meetings.

Bopp vs. Gadsden County
Jackson vs Gadsden County

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

7.d County Attorney Legal Services Agreement

Chair Hinson stated the purpose for this item was to have the Commissioners look at the contract and have a conversation.

Commissioner Wood asked how much they are being charged for tonight's meeting and Mr. Williams stated \$215 an hour.

Commissioner Wood stated he had never heard of hiring an attorney for four years. He felt like the Attorney was representing the county manager and not the commissioners; he did not feel like this contract was legal. Commissioner Wood stated the Florida Bar and Attorney General would not stand for this contract and he thought it was bad for Gadsden County.

Mr. Williams stated he has never said he was averse to clients and he was not being that way towards Commissioner Wood. He stated he represents all Commissioners and he calls every Commissioner to brief them on issues being handled at meetings.

Commissioner Green stated they could look at the contract and make amendments; he understood where Commissioner Wood came from but felt like Commissioner Wood was not giving Mr. Williams a chance.

Commissioner Holt stated all commissioners were notified about the interviews. She stated all the contracts that Mr. Williams is working on should have been taken care of by the previous law firm.

Commissioner Green stated to clarify some things that Commissioner Wood brought up. The cigar bar had nothing to do with the Attorney. He wished they would iron out the differences and move forward.

Commissioner Wood stated he remembered when Mr. Dixon arrived, Commissioner Holt stated to wait for them to do that because they have new commissioners coming on board. He did not get that opportunity since they did not wait for him to get on the board before selecting a County Attorney. Commissioner Wood asked if Mr. Williams wrote the contract and Mr. Williams stated he could only comment in terms of the process, due to the nature of this conversation. He stated he drafted the contract and the board decided to vote on it. Chair Hinson stated they have not mentioned firing him, they were just discussing the contract and asking questions. Mr. Williams stated they have this item on the agenda, if there was a motion from the board to terminate the contract, it was appropriate to vote on it. The fact that it has not occurred yet, did not change the fact that it can occur. Because of that, he has to provide the kind of legal advice he is doing now.

Chair Hinson asked if Mr. Williams wrote this contract for the best interest of the board or for himself. Mr. Williams stated he wrote a contract that was presented to the board and they voted and agreed to the terms of the contract. If this board decided to do something differently, he has to be limited on his legal advice. Chair Hinson stated if Mr. Williams wrote the contract for the best interest of the board, then why are Commissioners not allowed to seek other legal advice in regards to this contract. Mr. Williams stated that was not what the contract says.

Commissioner Wood stated he did not like how this happened and how it started. He listened to what Commissioner Green stated and he was not going to make a motion tonight.

Bonnie Francis appeared. She stated she hoped they would get it together.

Bishop Green appeared again. He stated he was embarrassed to say that he was not convinced that every member on the board has read the contract. He stated he was counting on 2025 being better.

Commissioner Wood stepped out at 8:37 p.m.

Commissioner Wood returned at 8:38 p.m.

Commissioner Simpkins stated to Bishop Green that if nobody else read that contract, she read it and went through it with the board prior to the vote. She did not care how great the attorney was, there was no way she would put herself in a position where it was locked in for 3 years. They could be costing the county \$700,000 to a million dollars if they decide to terminate. She stated they did not even look at what the statutes say in regards to the contract.

Commissioner Wood mentioned that he could not even get another legal opinion without breaking the contract; that is bad business.

Commissioner Green stated it felt they were having this discussion as if they have bad legal services. He asked to give an opportunity; the county attorney is working.

Tracey Stallworth appeared again and stated he wanted to ask the county attorney some questions. If he did not resolve some of the cases that the other firm did not complete, what position would it put the county in? Mr. Williams stated they wrapped up the Waste Pro contract, they did the TDC contract, and the marketing contract. It was millions of dollars' worth of work that was backlogged.

Mr. Stallworth encouraged them to start giving out to the community and teaching high schoolers about government.

Rodney Moore, 1404 St. Hebron, appeared before the board. He stated Commissioner Simpkins had asked why they could not table the approval of a new county attorney. He stated this was serious and about their community. Mr. Moore stated Mr. Dixon could have warned Commissioners about things not getting done under the previous county attorney. He stated it was nothing personal against Mr. Williams but his contract was just too much and he agreed that it was illegal.

Derrick Elias, 233 Cheeseborough Ave, appeared before the board. Mr. Elias stated within the contract, there was a clause of provision that stated both parties had the opportunity to have other counsel to review. He stated he had asked the board who had reviewed it on behalf of the county. The former county administrator stated the same county attorney who wrote the contract was the one who reviewed it on behalf of the county. It was a conflict of interest. He stated this was a bad contract and it was going to cost them.

Commissioner Holt stated the county managers do not supervise the attorney, the board does. Everyone on the board had an opportunity to study and review the contract. Over the years, the attorney has always written the contracts.

Commissioner Simpkins stepped out at 9:10 p.m.

Chair Hinson asked Mr. Williams how many years were on the contract. Mr. Williams stated it was 3 years. Chair Hinson asked Mr. Williams if he was aware of the statutory limitation regarding the severance pay for employees? Mr. Williams stated it would be improper to give any comments to questions like that.

Chair Hinson passed out Florida Statute Chapter 215 Section 425 where it mentioned a requirement that severance pay provided may not exceed an amount greater than 20 weeks of compensation.

Commissioner Simpkins returned at 9:16 p.m.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 9:16 p.m.

Commissioner Holt returned at 9:20 p.m.

Roosevelt Rogers appeared and stated it sounded like there was an issue with the contract and not the attorney. They should go back and look at the contract.

8. **Motion to Adjourn**

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HINSON DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:26 PM.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON DECEMBER 17, 2024 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 Holt, District 4
 Roosevelt Morris, Interim County Administrator
 Thornton Williams, County Attorney
 Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk
 Leann Jinks, Clerk Secretary to the Boards

1. Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Hinson called meeting to order at 6p.m and led into Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

4. Amendments to the Agenda

Mr. Morris stated the below amendments and requested to pull items 11.d, Approval to issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the sale/lease and/or redevelopment of a County-owned parcel through competitive bid solicitation, and 11.h., Approval to Invoice for Capital City Classic Corporate Sponsorship

Mr. Morris requested to pull 7.g, Approval of Maintenance/ Right of Way Control Maps for Hanna Millpond Bridge for discussion.

Request to be added under Consent: 7.k. Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Liens and Contracts - State Housing Initiative Partnership Program (SHIP) – ARPA Funds Program

Request to be added under General Business: 11.g. Approval to Continue the Investigation of the Sale of County Vehicles 11.h. Approval of Invoice for Capital City Classic Corporate Sponsorship

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

5. Approval of Agenda

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

6. Awards, Presentations, and Appearances

6a. Recognition of Presiding Elder Tan Moss

Board presented recognition to Presiding Elder Tan Moss.

6b. Recognition of Mark Newberry, MD

Mark Newberry was not present at the meeting.

6c. CareerSource Capital Region Presentation:
(Jim McShane, CEO CareerSource Capital Region)

Jim McShane, CEO CareerSource, appeared before the board and provided presentation.

Jevan Matthews, CareerSource, appeared before the board and spoke about what's happening with this program year in Gadsden County with CareerSource.

Jim McShane mentioned the Summer Youth Program and how happy he is with Gadsden County and the program itself.

7. Consent

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

7a. Ratification Memo

7b. BOCC Meeting/Workshop Minutes:

1. December 2, 2024, Regular BOCC Meeting

7c. Approval of the 2025 BOCC Meeting Calendar

7d. Acceptance of Grant Award from the Department of Financial Services

7e. Acceptance of the Florida Firefighter Assistance Grant

7f. Acceptance of the MIH Model Communities Project Funding

7g. Approval of Maintenance/ Right of Way Control Maps for Hanna Millpond Bridge

7h. Approval of Off-System Bridge Project Agreement and Resolution

7i. Transfer of Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems (OSTDS) Property

7j. Approval to accept the Emergency Management Performance Grant Agreement #G0517

7K. Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Liens and Contracts – SHIP – ARPA Funds Program

8. Items Pulled for Discussion

7.g Approval of Maintenance/ Right of Way Control Maps for Hanna Millpond Bridge

Mr. Williams stated this Agenda item needed to be modified due to a scrivener's issue.

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

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.

Commissioner Wood stepped out at 6:35 p.m.

Bishop Willie Green, 296 Bradwell Road Quincy, FL

Charles Williams, 145 Burns Road

Charles Williams appeared before the board to discuss Mississippi trip that he attended. He requested that the board work with whoever may want to bring business to the County because it was expensive for the infrastructure.

Commissioner Wood returned at 6:37 p.m.

Kate MacFall, 1206 Walton Dr. Tallahassee, FL

Kate MacFall appeared before the board to discuss animal services. She applauded the county in recent improvements and was excited to partner with them. She stated she would like to see an adoption program and there was more work to be done.

Commissioner Hinson asked how animals and mental health is a direct correlation. Ms. MacFall responded by saying there is a huge connection.

Derrick Elias, 233 Cheeseborough Ave

Derrick Elias appeared before the board. He asked about the status for negotiations relating to fire contract.

Mr. Elias asked about speaker forms needing to be turned in by 6 p.m. and if there was a reason for that. Chair Hinson stated they were making sure to maintain order and not let it get out of hand, and citizens could also email their comments if they could not make it.

Lori Bouie, 816 Hardin St Quincy, FL 32352

Lori Bouie appeared before the board and encouraged them to do the Mississippi trip again. She said she had an incredible time on the trip.

Ms. Bouie also stated they should do the trip at least annually, but bi-annual would be better.

Mr. Simmons

Mr. Simmons appeared before the board and stated they need economic development group that meets regularly in Gadsden County. Chair Hinson stated they did that before, and they will do it again.

10. Public Hearing

11. General Business

11a. Approval to Develop and Issue Procurements Seeking a Professional Architectural Firm and a Professional Construction Project Management Firm for the State-Funded Public Safety and EOC Project

Mr. Morris presented the above item. This agenda item seeks Board approval to develop and issue procurements seeking a professional architectural firm and a professional construction project management firm for the state-funded Public Safety and EOC project.

Mr. Morris stated since 2019, the County has been awarded \$17,104,105.00 in state funding for designing and constructing a Public Safety Facility and an Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The funds have been awarded through four grant agreements. He stated the State requires the County to go after procurement, and there must be an RFQ for the professional architect, and the RFP would be for the professional construction project management firm.

Tracey Stallworth, PO BOX 1339 Quincy, FL appeared before the board. Chair Hinson stated they would finish item 11.a first then will go back to Mr. Stallworth.

Commissioner Wood thanked Mr. Morris for stepping up and taking care of things in a timely manner.

**COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 ON THIS ITEM AND
COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.**

Tracey Stallworth, PO BOX 1339 Quincy, FL appeared before the board. Mr. Stallworth mentioned the security officer killed in the internet cafe and asked about an ordinance to protect people.

Mr. Stallworth asked what the Boards plan is for next 5-10 years for Gadsden County. He asked if there are any plans for the homeless and people with substance abuse.

Mr. Stallworth asked Mr. Williams about an ordinance being crafted against internet cafes. Chair Hinson stated that they can't trump a statute, and this was a law enforcement issue.

11b. Approval of Applying for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant

Mr. Morris presented the above item. This item seeks the Board approval to apply for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) for the Gadsden County Fire Service.

Mr. Morris stated the primary goal of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) is to meet the firefighting and emergency response needs of the fire departments and nonaffiliated emergency medical service organizations. Since 2001, AFG has helped firefighters and other first responders to obtain critically needed equipment, protective gear, emergency vehicles, training, and other resources needed to protect the public and emergency personnel from fire and related hazards.

Mr. Morris stated this grant will apply for 15 full sets of firefighter bunker gear for a total of \$66k, the cascade field system to fill SCBA bottles for a total of \$53k, and a new fire truck for a total of \$650k. This is a cost share match grant, and the match is \$77, 080.30.

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

11c. Approval of Resolution 2025-012 Grant Budget Amendment for FY2025

Mr. Morris presented the above item. This agenda item seeks the Board approval of Resolution 2025-012 and authorization for the County Administrator and Finance Director to complete and execute all budget amendments necessary to maintain a balanced budget for Fiscal Year 2025 BOCC budget.

Commissioner Wood asked if Ms. Harris was able to get this done and Mr. Morris stated they need to be spent by December 31st and it could affect that depending on the changes they make.

Commissioner Simpkins stated it just needed to be obligated by December 31st, not spent. She also mentioned the invoice from the Clerk's request.

Commissioner Green asked Ms. Harris if she has had conversation with the Clerk. Janice Harris appeared before the board and stated the Clerk was requesting to pay the lease on some equipment, and it is over the \$100k.

Commissioner Holt asked if Ms. Harris had received a purchase order from the Clerk, and Ms. Harris stated no, but she did receive a quote. Commissioner Holt then stated it should have been in his budget.

Commissioner Simpkins stated some of the Clerk's requests were not granted as they did not grant some of his initial requests, so it is not in his budget.

Ms. Harris stated quote for licenses was \$13k and the Clerk wanted to use the balance to pay that.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if it was for the cyber security and Ms. Harris stated no.

Commissioner Green stated it would be nice to have someone from the Clerk's office regarding this item as they have questions.

Chair Hinson mentioned lighting in Gadsden County. Commissioner Simpkins stated Mr. Morris was in conversation with Talquin regarding lighting, and Mr. Morris stated yes, he is and even has a meeting scheduled with DOT.

Commissioner Wood mentioned volunteer fire as a discretionary, and Ms. Harris stated it needs to be obligated to a specific item.

Ms. Morris stated they are requesting permission to move the funds not utilized to the EMS Salary.

Ms. Harris requested to include in their motion to approve the spending plan and if not spent, the funds can be moved to EMS salary.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 FOR THE SPENDING PLAN; IF NOT SPENT, THE FUNDS CAN BE MOVED TO EMS SALARIES AND COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

~~11d. Approval to issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the sale/lease and/or redevelopment of a County owned parcel through competitive bid solicitation~~
Item pulled.

11e. Approval to use Economic Development – Economic Incentive funding to support Gadsden County Main Street Organizations Chattahoochee, Havana, and Quincy

Mr. Morris presented the above item. This agenda item seeks Board approval to provide a total of \$37,500 in Department of Economic Development, Economic Incentive funding to support the coordinating Main Street organizations established within Gadsden County which are nationally, and state-accredited organizations dedicated to creating high-quality places and building stronger communities through preservation based economic development.

T.J. Lewis appeared before the board to provide a presentation. He stated they are seeking board approval to provide \$37, 500.

Commissioner Simpkins thanked Quincy Main Street for the work they do in our community.

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

11f. Approval of a One-Time Employee Bonus for Eligible Staff

Mr. Morris presented the above item. This item seeks Board discussion and approval for approval of a one-time employee bonus for eligible Board of County Commissioners staff.

Commissioner Simpkins stepped out at 7:55 p.m.

Commissioner Simpkins returned at 7:56 p.m.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she could not go with the bonus as she was under the assumption that they were looking at pay raises.

Commissioner Green asked for clarity from Mr. Morris on how they have this extra funding. Janice Harris appeared and stated they have enough in the budget if they go with Option A, \$750, without going into reserve. Commissioner Green stated he did not want to go into the reserve.

Commissioner Wood stated he would like to bring this item back to see what else they could do; he would like more clarity on this item.

Commissioner Green stated there was no need to rationally vote on this tonight; it was not time sensitive. He stated they could not just throw out numbers without knowing what it will all equal to.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE A ONE-TIME BONUS OF \$750 AND
COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO
APPROVE.**

11g. Approval to Continue the Investigation of the Sale of County Vehicles

Mr. Morris presented this item and stated they need approval for an internal investigation. They still want to seek an outside source for the internal investigation.

Derrick Elias appeared and asked how long does it take to investigate; it has already been 4 or 5 weeks. He asked if the board approved to sell the vehicles and if the auction was advertised. He also asked if vehicles were ever disposed of in this manner.

Mr. Williams stated this was an ongoing investigation and it was better to not comment on it. Commissioner Green asked for the status and how long this will last. Mr. Morris stated he spoke with FDLE today; probably until the end of January to complete the investigation.

Commissioner Green asked for the timeframe for the internal investigation, not the FDLE part. Mr. Morris stated staff was given direction to halt the investigation and turn it over to FDLE. Commissioner Holt stated they do not need to discuss this, just vote.

Mr. Williams stated FDLE could not do an administrative investigation; the item had to be brought to approve the internal investigation.

COMMISSIONER WOOD MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS ITEM FOR 2 WEEKS AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Lori Bouie, PO BOX 77 Quincy, FL appeared and suggested for HR to reach out to agencies.

Commissioner Wood stepped out at 8:49 p.m.

- ~~11h. Approval to Invoice for Capital City Classic Corporate Sponsorship~~**
Item pulled.

- 12. Clerk of Court**
No updates.

- 13. County Attorney**
No updates.

- 14. County Administrator**
Mr. Morris mentioned brunch for seniors and a Quincy Christmas parade on Friday.

Commissioner Wood returned at 8:50 p.m.

- 15. Discussion Items by Commissioners**

- 15a. Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2**
Commissioner Simpkins requested tents at Fontana Trail on January 1.
Commissioner Simpkins stated she wants them to get out of doing things spur of the moment. She does not want them to always be in emergency mode.

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION TO RECOGNIZE THE GADSDEN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

- 15b. Commissioner Shawn Wood, District 3**
Commissioner Wood stated he would like a meeting with City Recreation and have a round-table.

15c. Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt mentioned roads and Mr. Morris stated he emailed the report to her. She asked for the status on a grant writer. Mr. Morris stated it was advertised. Commissioner Holt mentioned that they need another building inspector.

15d. Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5

Commissioner Green asked about the memorial for the drowning victims at Lake Talquin. Mr. Morris stated they were waiting on family response but they have gone forward with the plaque.

Commissioner Green mentioned Strong Road and requested an observation due to breakage.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO ADD A PRESENTATION BY DEMETRIUS BLOCKER ON THE JANUARY 21 REGULAR MEETING AND CHAIR HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Green asked about the Boys & Girls Club. Mr. Williams stated they were still working on an agreement and there are no issues about funds being in jeopardy. The goal was to get it on the second meeting in January.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO HAVE DECEMBER 23 OFF AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

15e. Commissioner Eric F. Hinson, District 1

16. Motion to Adjourn

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HINSON DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:38 PM.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk