

**AT A WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON
JANUARY 8, 2023 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.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
January 8, 2024 – Workshop

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.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
January 16, 2024 – Workshop

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 VITED5-0 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.

COMMISSONER 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 Attapulcus 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

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
January 16, 2024-Regular Meeting

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

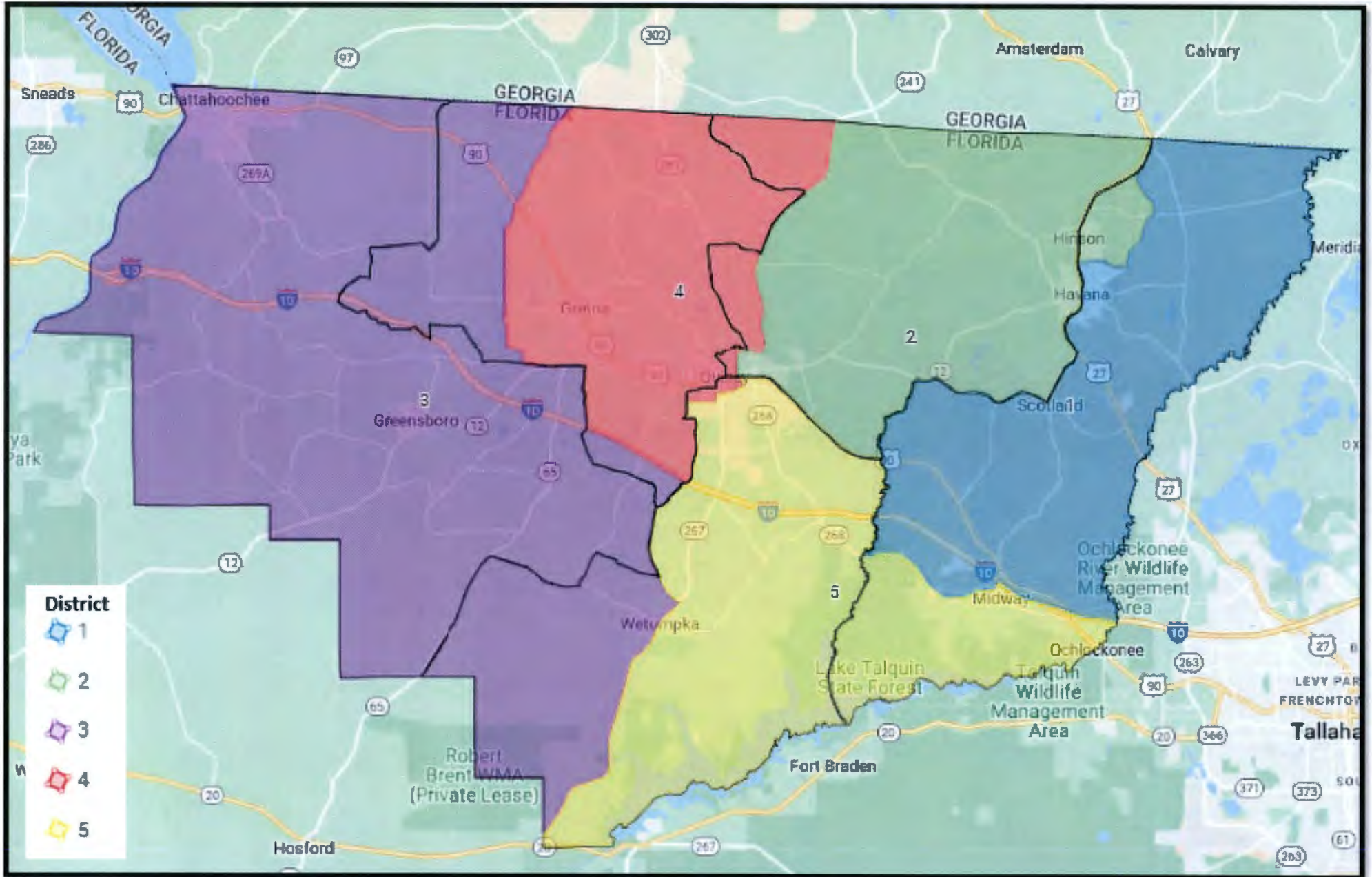
DEPUTY CLERK
NICHOLAS THOMAS,
Clerk of the Circuit Court

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 Attapulgus Highway,
Thence north along Attapulgus 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.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
February 6, 2024-Regular Meeting

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

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.

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 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 Attapulcus, 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 Attapulcus 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

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.

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