

Highlands County Board of County Commissioners
Tuesday, November 18, 2025
9:00 AM
600 S. Commerce Ave. Sebring, FL 33870

- 1. Meeting Called to Order: Invitation to fill out "Comments by the Public" forms**
Please silence all cell phones and devices.

- 2. Invocation**

- 3. Pledge of Allegiance**

- 4. Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair**

A. Request by presiding Chair Tuck to open nominations for Chairperson

Presiding Chair Arlene Tuck

No fiscal impact

B. Request by the Chairperson to open nominations for Vice-Chairperson

Chairperson

No fiscal impact

- 5. Announcements**

The Highlands Soil & Water Conservation District will hold a Regular Board Meeting, on Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at noon, in the HSWCD Conference Room, in the Bert J. Harris, Jr. Agricultural Center, 4505 George Blvd., Sebring

A Liberty Interest (Name Clearing) Hearing will be held at the request of Robert C. Williams, a terminated employee, on Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at 2:00 p.m., in the Jury Assembly Room of the Highlands County Courthouse, 430 S. Commerce Ave., Sebring

The Affordable Housing Advisory Committee will hold a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, November 19, 2025, at 3:30 p.m., in the Engineering Conference Room, 505 S. Commerce Ave., Sebring

The Highlands County Hospital District Board will hold a Regular Meeting on Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 1:30 p.m., in the Board Room, 600 S. Commerce Ave., Sebring

The Highlands County Board of County Commissioners will hold a Special Meeting on Friday, November 21, 2025, at 11:00 a.m., in the Board Room, 600 S. Commerce Ave., Sebring

County offices will be closed Thursday, November 27, 2025 and Friday, November 28, 2025 in observance of the Thanksgiving and day after Thanksgiving holidays

- 6. Constitutional Officers - Announcements**

7. Recognitions, Presentations and Proclamations

- A. Recognition of Promotions for Highlands County Fire Rescue Lieutenant and Battalion Chief.
- B. Recognition of Donor for the Donation of Two (2) Lucas Devices to Highlands County Fire Rescue
James Duppenthaler, Fire Chief

There is no cost to the County. The donation, valued at \$42,125.08, was fully funded by the Estate of Mr. Scott DeRoller.
- C. Request approval of a Proclamation recognizing November 19, 2025 as "GIS Day" in Highlands County, Florida
Carley Fitzgerald, GIS Manager

No fiscal impact.

8. Consent Agenda

- A. Request adoption of Resolution 25-26-031 for Budget Amendment 25-26-014 to set up Project 25019, a grant from the Highlands County Hospital District Board to the Highlands County Children's Advocacy Center.
Gail Werley, CAC Manager

The fiscal impact will be an increase to Fund 155, Cost Center 1155 (Hospital District Board), Project 25019 in the amount of \$42,688.00 to be used for contractual services to provide Child Protection Team Services to Children's Advocacy Center Clients, and to provide mental health care and spiritual services to CAC Clients.
- B. Request adoption of Resolution 25-26-032 for Budget Amendment 25-26-017 for Projects 22050 & 24022 to roll over project balances from FY24-25 into FY25-26 to properly budget the available funds for the projects in FY25-26.
Gail Werley, CAC Manager

The fiscal impact will be an increase to Fund 155 (Hospital District Board), Cost Center 1155 (Hospital District Board) by reducing Project 22050 (Hospital District Board 22-23) in the amount of \$21,276.66 and increasing Project 24022 (Hospital District Board 24-25) in the amount of \$29,540.08 for a total net increase of \$8,263.42.
- C. Request Approval of TOA WTI 4-1 for Project 23094 Government Center Facade Repairs
- D. Project 25006, R&B CFS Equipment FY25/26 update
Jonathan Harrison, Road & Bridge Director

Fiscal impact is approximately \$360,000.00 and is currently budgeted for project 25006; No additional funding needed.
- E. Request approval of the 2024-2027 Advent Health Wellness Agreement.

Sherri Bennett, Human Resources Manager

No Fiscal Impact - Funded by Cigna Wellness Dollars

- F. Interlocal Agreement between Highlands County and the City of Sebring retroactive to October 1, 2025

- G. Request Adoption of Resolution No. 25-26-010 Restricting Large Vehicle Traffic on Burkett Avenue.

Uladzislau Bilukha, Assistant County Engineer

There is fiscal impact - The County will be placing two signs in their Right-of-way.

FDOT will be placing the signs in their Right-of-way at their expense.

- H. Request Adoption of Resolution No. 25-26-028 Restricting Large Vehicle Traffic on Apple Road.

Uladzislau Bilukha, Assistant County Engineer

There is fiscal impact - The County will be placing two signs in their Right-of-way.

FDOT will be placing the signs in their Right-of-way at their expense.

- I. Request Adoption of Resolution No. 25-26-027 Restricting Large Vehicle Traffic on Woodbury Avenue.

Uladzislau Bilukha, Assistant County Engineer

There is fiscal impact - The County will be placing two signs in their Right-of-way.

FDOT will be placing the signs in their Right-of-way at their expense.

- J. Request Adoption of Resolution No. 25-26-026 Restricting Large Vehicle Traffic on Jonquil Avenue.

Uladzislau Bilukha, Assistant County Engineer

There is fiscal impact - The County will be placing two signs in their Right-of-way.

FDOT will be placing the signs in their Right-of-way at their expense.

- K. Request adoption of Resolution 25-26-016 to approve a Local Agency Program (LAP) Agreement between the State of Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and Highlands County for the design of a 5-foot-wide sidewalk/path on Catfish Creek Road from Tuomey Court to West Interlake Boulevard.

Uladzislau Bilukha, Assistant County Engineer

The fiscal impact will be an increase to Fund 151 (Infrastructure Surtax), Cost Center 4102A (Transportation Projects) in the amount of \$50,000.00 and will be appropriated in Project 25023 Catfish Creek Rd Sidewalk.

- L. Request adoption of Resolution 25-26-017 to approve a Local Agency Program (LAP) Agreement between the State of Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and Highlands County for the design of a 5-foot-wide

sidewalk/path on the north side of Cemetery Road from Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard to School Street.

Uladzislau Bilukha, Assistant County Engineer

The fiscal impact will be an increase to Fund 151 (Infrastructure Surtax), Cost Center 4102A (Transportation Projects) in the amount of \$86,250.00 and will be appropriated in Project 25021 Cemetery Rd Sidewalk.

- M. Request adoption of Resolution 25-26-018 to approve a Local Agency Program (LAP) Agreement between the State of Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and Highlands County for the design of a 5-foot-wide sidewalk/path on the north side of Desoto Road from Phil Lane to Desoto City Road.

Uladzislau Bilukha, Assistant County Engineer

The fiscal impact will be an increase to Fund 151 (Infrastructure Surtax), Cost Center 4102A (Transportation Projects) in the amount of \$51,750.00 and will be appropriated in Project 25022 Desoto Road Sidewalk.

- N. Request adoption of Resolution 25-26-019 to approve a Local Agency Program (LAP) Agreement between the State of Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and Highlands County for the design of a 5-foot-wide sidewalk/path on School Street from EO Douglas Avenue to Cemetery Road.

Uladzislau Bilukha, Assistant County Engineer

The fiscal impact will be an increase to Fund 151 (Infrastructure Surtax), Cost Center 4102A (Transportation Projects) in the amount of \$77,340.00 and will be appropriated in Project 25024 School St Sidewalk.

- O. Request approval of a license agreement between IBT Group USA and Highlands County.
- P. Request approval of the minutes from the September 16, 2025, and October 7, 2025, Regular Meeting of the Board and the September 16, 2025, Public Hearing of the Board.

Pamela Gamez, Official Records Manager

There is no fiscal impact

9. Public Comment

10. Committee Assignments

11. Public Hearing

- A. Request Adoption of Resolution No.25-26-011 to Vacate Portions of Certain County Roadways named Cambria Road and Prillwitz Road.

Uladzislau Bilukha, Assistant County Engineer

No Fiscal Impact.

12. Action Agenda

A. Avon Park Baseball Museum

Laurie Hurner, County Administrator, James Langford, Assistant County Administrator

The fiscal impact is \$100,000.

B. Highlands County Hospital Sale

Bert J. Harris, III

The fiscal impact is unknown.

13. County Administrator and Legal

13.A. County Attorney Status Report

Sherry Sutphen

There is no fiscal impact.

B. County Administrator Status Report

Laurie Hurner, County Administrator

No fiscal impact.

14. Commissioners

15. Informational

A. Board payables from November 18, 2025, to December 2, 2025

16. Adjourn

Any person who decides to appeal any decision made by this Board of County Commissioners of Highlands County, Florida, in public hearing or meeting is hereby advised that he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record will include the testimony and evidence upon which such appeal is to be based.

The Board of County Commissioners of Highlands County, Florida, does not discriminate upon the basis of any individual's disability status. This non-discrimination policy involves every aspect of the Board's functions, including one's access to, participation, employment or treatment in its programs or activities. "Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation as provided for in the Americans With Disabilities Act or Section 286.26 Florida Statutes should contact Human Resources, ADA Coordinator at: 863-402-6509 (voice), or via Florida Relay Service 711, or by e-mail: hrmanager@highlandsfl.gov." Requests for CART or interpreter services should be made as soon as possible but no less than 48 hours in advance to permit coordination of the service.

Any invocation that may be offered before the official start of the Commission meeting is a voluntary offering by a private citizen. The views or beliefs expressed by the invocation speaker have not been reviewed or approved by the Commission, and the Commission is not allowed by law to endorse the religious beliefs or views of this, or any other speaker.

A person desiring to provide public comment related to an item on the Consent Agenda of this meeting, must fill out a Speaker Card and submit the same to the County Administrator or Chairperson by 8:50 a.m. All Speaker Cards received after 8:50am, will be called during the regular Public Comment.