

Highlands County Board of County Commissioners
Tuesday, January 6, 2026
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. Announcements

The Construction Licensing, Enforcement and Appeals Board will meet at 7:00 p.m., on Tuesday, January 6, 2026, in the Boardroom, 600 S. Commerce Ave., Sebring, FL

The Highlands County Code Enforcement Special Magistrate Hearing will be held at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, January 7, 2026, in the Boardroom, 600 S. Commerce Ave., Sebring, FL

The Historic Preservation Commission will meet at 2:30 p.m., on Thursday, January 8, 2026, in the Boardroom, 600 S. Commerce Ave., Sebring, FL

The Zoning Board of Adjustment (BOA) will meet at 3:00 p.m., followed at 3:15 p.m., by the Planning and Zoning Commission/Local Planning Agency (P&Z) on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, in the Boardroom, 600 S. Commerce Ave., Sebring, FL

The Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group will meet at 8:00 a.m., on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at the Highlands County Fire Headquarters Conference Room, 4506 Kenilworth Blvd., Sebring, FL

5. Constitutional Officers - Announcements

6. Recognitions, Presentations and Proclamations

7. Public Comment

8. Consent Agenda

A. Request approval of Amendment 2 between Highlands County and Howerton Sod ITB 23-020

B. Request Adoption of Resolution 25-26-072 for Budget Amendment 25-26-038 to appropriate awarded IG026 ICE STIPENDS and ICE Transportation & Tactical Equip Stipend for FY 25/26 Project Funds.

Paul Blackman, Sheriff

The fiscal impact is an increase to Fund 005 (General) and the overall budget in the amount of \$207,284.50 with \$24,759.50 being appropriated in Project

25025 (IG026 ICE Stipends) in cost center 3101 (Sheriff – 005) and cost center 3323 (Detention & Correction) in the amounts of \$11,841.50 and \$12,918.00, respectively.

In addition, \$182,525.00 is being appropriated in Project 25030 (ICE Transportation & Tactical Equipment Stipend) in cost center 3101 (Sheriff – 005).

- C. Request adoption of Resolution 25-26-073 for Budget Amendment 25-26-039 to bring fund balance forward to Rollover unspent Grant funds within the General Fund for SCAAP 2024 project 24032 to accomplish the grant/project program goals.

Paul Blackman, Sheriff

The fiscal impact is an increase to Fund 005 (General) in the amount of \$13,170.00 and being appropriated in Project 24032 (SCAAP 2024), cost center 3323 (Detention & Correction).

- D. Request to approve payment of Jones Edmunds & Associates invoices no. 0257380 and 0257573 in total amount of \$21,342.27, without purchase order, for services rendered for TOA #16 Highlands County Solid Waste Management Center NPDES Permitting Services.

Robert Diefendorf, Project Engineer

There is no fiscal impact to the FY 25/26 Cost Center 4210 Budget. Services performed for this Jones Edmunds & Associates TOA #16 will be funded from Fund 401, Cost Center 4210, Account 53100 (Professional Services).

- E. Request approval of Amendment #1 to the Interlocal Agreement between Highlands County and Sebring Airport Authority for Webster Turn/Haywood Taylor Blvd to Boeing Ave.

Tanya Cannady, Business Services Director

There is no fiscal impact to the County as all funding related to this project will be submitted to Sebring Airport Authority on a reimbursement basis.

- F. Request approval of the contract between FNCAC LPVC 25-26 and the Children's Advocacy Center, request adoption of Resolution 25-26-063 for Budget Amendment 25-26-027

Gail Werley, CAC Manager

The fiscal impact is an increase to the General Fund (005), Cost Center 3995 (Children's Advocacy Center), Project 24059 in the amount of \$3,148.37.

- G. Request approval of the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee's (AHAC) Review and Approval of the Local Housing Incentive Strategy Report and authorize submission to the Florida Housing Finance Corporation.

Kimberly Wean, Housing Program Manager

No fiscal impact.

- H. Approve the minutes from the November 18, 2025, Regular Meeting of the Board.

Pamela Gamez, Official Records Manager

There is no fiscal impact.

- I. Request approval of 20-039 EO Koch TOA 2-1 Jail Chiller Replacement
Tiffany Gunn, Capital Projects Manager

The fiscal impact is \$134,954.30 that is currently budgeted in cost center 3322A account 56400Z project # 22069.

9. Public Hearing

- A. Request adoption of Emergency Burn Ban Ordinance 25-26-06 pursuant to Florida Statutes, Section 125.66

James Duppenhaler, Fire Chief

There is no fiscal impact.

10. Committee Assignments

- A. Request reappointment of seven members of the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC).

Kimberly Wean, Housing Program Manager

No fiscal impact.

- B. Request reappointment of three (3) regular voting members to the Natural Resources Advisory Commission (NRAC)

Michael McMillian, Natural Resources Specialist II

No fiscal impact

- C. Request to appoint two regular members to the Economic Development Committee.

Sarah Beth Murphy

There is no fiscal impact.

11. Action Agenda

- A. Request approval of a Letter of Authorization from Highlands County, Florida, as authorization for Heartland Crime Stoppers to apply for, receive and expend grant funding from the Crime Stoppers Trust Fund for the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2029, on behalf of Highlands County, Florida.

Laurie Hurner, County Administrator

No fiscal impact.

- B. Request direction from the Board on replenishing Fund 152 (Tourist Development) Cost Center 5309 (Asset Development/Enhancement) with Fund 005 (General) funds.

Casey Hartt, Lead Marketing Consultant, Leah Sauls, Development Services Director

If a Budget Amendment is approved, the fiscal impact could be a decrease of \$100,000 to Fund 005 (General Fund) and an increase of \$100,000 to Fund 152 (Tourist Development Trust), Cost Center 5309 (Tourist Development Asset Development/Enhancement).

- C. Request approval of Payment Without PO to Brightly Software for Annual Subscription of \$27,604.26 fiscal year 25/26.

Brandon Gunn, Parks & Facilities Director

No fiscal impact to Fund 005 (General) as funds are in Cost Center 2672 (Facilities Management), Account 55402Z (Project Annual Subscriptions), and Project 23105.

- D. Request Adoption of Resolution 25-26-064 for Budget Amendment 25-26-028 to appropriate awarded Guardian Program FY 25/26 Grant Project Funds.

Paul Blackman, Sheriff

The fiscal impact is an increase to Fund 005 (General) and the overall budget in the amount of \$100,000.00 and will be appropriated in Project 25026 (Guardian Program), and cost center 3101 (Sheriff-005).

12. County Attorney and County Administrator

- A. County Attorney Status Report

Katie Houlihan, Assistant County Attorney

No fiscal impact

- B. County Administrator Status Report

Laurie Hurner, County Administrator

No fiscal impact.

13. Commissioners

14. Informational

- A. Quarter Four Highlands County Library System Item Surplus

Vikki Brown, Library System Manager

No fiscal impact.

- B. Board payables from January 6, 2026, to January 22, 2026

- C. Correction to the 2026 Holiday Schedule

Laurie Hurner, County Administrator

No fiscal impact

15. 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.