

Highlands County Board of County Commissioners
Tuesday, March 17, 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 Natural Resources Advisory Commission will hold a regular meeting at 4:00 p.m., on Wednesday, March 25, 2026, in the Road & Bridge Conference Room #1, 4344 George Blvd., Sebring, FL

County offices will be closed in observance of the Good Friday holiday on Friday, April 3, 2026

- 5. Constitutional Officers - Announcements**

- 6. Recognitions, Presentations and Proclamations**

- A. Presentation of Years of Service Awards

Gloria Rybinski, Records Manager, Katie Houlihan, Assistant County Attorney, Mark Lawrence, Solid Waste Director, Laurie Hurner, County Administrator, James Duppenhaler, Fire Chief

No Fiscal Impact

- i. Employee of the Fourth Quarter 2025

- B. Request approval of a Proclamation recognizing April 2026 as "Donate Life Month"

Laurie Hurner, County Administrator

No fiscal impact.

- C. Request approval of a Proclamation recognizing April 2026 as "Child Gun Safety Education Month."

Laurie Hurner, County Administrator

No fiscal impact

- D. Highlands County Vulnerability Assessment Update

Jennifer Codo- Salisbury

There is no fiscal impact.

- 7. Public Comment**

8. Consent Agenda

- A. Request approval of Amendment 1 for the Agreement between Highlands County and Tucker Paving, Inc. (\$0)
Laura Borgesi, County Engineer, PE, PSM, MPA, Kenya Anderson, Senior Project Manager

There is no Fiscal Impact as funds are already appropriated in Project 17034.

- B. Request approval of Grant Agreement between Highlands County and the Peace River Center for Personal Development, Inc. (\$25,000)
Ingrasherese Gardner, Community Programs Director

The fiscal impact of \$25,000 to Fund 155 (Hospital District) for this community agency grant is included in the FY 2025-2026 budget in cost center 1155 (Hospital District), account 58200 (Private Organizations).

- C. Request approval of Agreement between Highlands County and Peace River Center Safehouse (\$50,000)
Tanya Cannady, Business Services Director

The fiscal impact of Fund 005 (General) is \$50,000, which is budgeted in cost center 5225 (Non-Profit Community Agencies), account 53400 (Contractual Services), that was approved in the Adopted Budget for FY 25/26.

- D. Request approval of Amendment 4 for the State Revolving Fund Planning Loan between Highlands County and Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

Uladzislau Bilukha, Assistant County Engineer

No fiscal impact since Amendment 4 only reassigns the study completion date and management of the Loan.

- E. Request approval of Amendment 2 for the Agreement between Highlands County and Central Square Technologies (\$0)
Tanya Cannady, Business Services Director

There is no fiscal impact

- F. Request approval of TOA 1-3 for the Agreement between Highlands County and SEMCO Construction, Inc. (\$141,426.48)
Tiffany Gunn, Capital Projects Manager

The Fiscal Impact of TOA 1-3 is \$141,426.48 which is currently budgeted in cost center 5106A, account 56200Z, project 16044.

- G. Request approval of the Lease Agreement between Highlands County and Department of Children and Families (\$683,559.00)
Ingrasherese Gardner, Community Programs Director

The fiscal impact will be an increase to the General Fund (005), account 3620010 (CAC Bldg Rent) of \$683,559.00 by 3-31-2033.

- H. Request approval to waive the Landfill Tipping Fees for Placid Lakes Homeowner Association Community Cleanup (\$165)

Mark Lawrence, Solid Waste Director

Landfill staff estimates that the Placid Lakes Homeowner Association Cleanup will collect an estimated three (3) tons of Class 1 waste to be hauled to the landfill at a cost of \$55.00 per ton for a total of \$165.00 to be waived. The figures are based upon the Placid Lakes Homeowners Association estimate of two (2) roll-off bins for this event.

- I. Request approval to waive field rental fees for Sebring Middle School Soccer Program at the Highlands County Multi-Sports Complex. (\$1,215.00)

Brandon Gunn, Parks & Facilities Director

The fiscal impact would result in a loss of revenue to Fund 005 (General Fund), account 3475100 (Revenue Account) of approximately \$1,215.00.

- J. Request approval to pay without a Purchase Order (PO) for Project #23009 between Highlands County and P-House, LLC (\$37,292.00)

Kenya Anderson, Senior Project Manager, Laura Borgesi, County Engineer, PE, PSM, MPA

There is no fiscal impact because the funds are budgeted in the project.

- K. Request adoption of Resolution 25-26-105 for Budget Amendment 25-26-066 to appropriate awarded FIBRS grant/project funds (\$125,394.00).

Paul Blackman, Sheriff

The fiscal impact is an increase to Fund 005 (General) and the overall budget in the amount of \$125,394.00.

- L. Request approval of the minutes from the February 17, 2026, Regular Meeting of the Board.

Pamela Gamez, Official Records Manager

No fiscal impact.

9. Committee Assignments

- A. Request appointment of three regular members to the Board of Adjustment (BOA) and Planning and Zoning Commission/Local Planning Agency (P&Z) with an expiration date of 4/20/2030.

Melony Culpepper, Planning & Zoning Supervisor

No fiscal impact.

10. Public Hearing

- A. Public hearing to request the approval of Positive Mobility, LLC d/b/a Elite Medical Response application for a Class 2 and 3 Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (COPCN).

Dustin Fitch, Deputy Chief

There is no fiscal impact.

- B. Public hearing to consider adoption of Ordinance 25-26-19 for CPA-25-645LS, amending the text and map series of the Highlands County Comprehensive Plan, consistent with the 2024 Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR).

Cynthia Carman Kramer, Planning & Zoning Manager

There is no fiscal impact.

- C. Public hearing to request the adoption of Resolution No. 25-26-079 to Vacate Existing Drainage Easements. (\$0)

Laura Borgesi, County Engineer, PE, PSM, MPA

No Fiscal Impact

11. Action Agenda

- A. Request approval to waive the road closure permit fee for the Highlands County Citizens with Voices Easter event scheduled for Sunday, April 5, 2026

Laurie Hurner, County Administrator

The fiscal impact to Fund 110 (Transportation Trust) is \$200.00 in lost Right-of-Way Temporary Road Closure permit fee.

- B. Request approval for Excavation Point Inc. to complete the Lake Lotela Drainage Project

Jonathan Harrison, Road & Bridge Director

Fiscal impact of \$156,855.00 appropriated within Project 23116 (Stormwater Conveyance Pro).

- C. Rapid Response EMS Complaint Findings

Dustin Fitch, Deputy Chief

There is no fiscal impact.

12. County Attorney and County Administrator

- A. County Attorney Status Report

Sherry Sutphen

There is no fiscal impact.

- B. County Administrator Status Report

Laurie Hurner, County Administrator

There is no fiscal impact.

13. Commissioners

14. Informational

- A. Board payables from March 17– April 6, 2026

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.