

Highlands County Board of County Commissioners
Tuesday, April 7, 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 Historic Preservation Commission will meet at 2:30 p.m., on Thursday, April 9, 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, April 14, 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, April 15, 2026, at the Emergency Operations Center War Room, 6850 George Blvd., Sebring, FL

The Affordable Housing Advisory Committee will meet at 3:30 p.m., on Wednesday, April 15, 2026, in the Engineering Conference Room, 505 S. Commerce Ave., Sebring, FL

- 5. Constitutional Officers - Announcements**

- 6. Recognitions, Presentations and Proclamations**

- A. Request approval of the Proclamation recognizing May 1, 2026, as "Law Day in Highlands County".

Cayman Hargaden, Assistant State Attorney

There is no fiscal impact.

- B. Request approval of the Proclamation recognizing April as "Water Conservation Month in Florida".

Laurie Hurner, County Administrator

There is no fiscal impact.

- C. Request approval the of Proclamation recognizing April 20–24, 2026 as "Home Visiting Week in Florida".

Laurie Hurner, County Administrator

There is no fiscal impact.

- D. Request approval of the Proclamation recognizing April as "Child Abuse

Prevention Month".

Gail Werley, CAC Manager

There is no fiscal impact.

- E. Request approval of the Proclamation recognizing April 19-25 as "National Library Week"

Vikki Brown, Library System Manager

No fiscal impact

- F. Presentation on South Florida State College's economic impact study for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Fred Hawkins, President, South Florida State College

No fiscal impact

7. Public Comment

8. Consent Agenda

- A. Request to approve seven (7) agreements from Professional Services Library of Consultants Category 1, Architecture. (\$0)

Stacy Prevatte, Procurement Manager

No fiscal impact.

- B. Request to approve three (3) agreements from Professional Services Library of Consultants Category 4, Registered Surveyor & Mapper Services. (\$0)

Stacy Prevatte, Procurement Manager

No fiscal impact.

- C. Request to approve three (3) agreements from Professional Services Library of Consultants Category 5, Planning Services. (\$0)

Stacy Prevatte, Procurement Manager

No fiscal impact.

- D. Request to approve six (6) agreements from Professional Services Library of Consultants Category 6, Construction Engineering & Inspection (CEI) Services. (\$0)

Stacy Prevatte, Procurement Manager

No fiscal impact.

- E. Request to approve two (2) agreements from Professional Services Library of Consultants Category 7, Geotechnical Services. (\$0)

Stacy Prevatte, Procurement Manager

No fiscal impact.

- F. Request approval of Amendment #3 of the 2022-2025 SHIP Local Housing Assistance Plan. (\$0)

Ingrashere Gardner, Community Programs Director

There is no fiscal impact.

- G. Request adoption of resolution 25-26-103 for budget amendment 25-26-063 to reallocate funds back to the approved Ridge to River Conservation Planning Study (\$34,826).

Dawn Ritter, Natural Resources Manager

The fiscal impact is an increase to Fund 129 (Conservation Trust) in the amount of \$34,826.00 and being appropriated in cost center 6307 (Conservation Trust), account 53100 (Professional Services).

- H. Request approval of Interlocal Agreement between the City of Sebring and Highlands County. (\$18,750.00)

Casey Hartt, Lead Marketing Consultant

The fiscal impact is an expense of \$18,750 to Fund 152 (Tourist Development Trust).

- I. Request approval of the JAG-Local Grant Application FY 25-26 along with the adoption of Resolution 25-26-108 for Budget Amendment 25-26-069 to appropriate awarded Grant Project Funds (\$19,981).

Paul Blackman, Sheriff

The fiscal impact is an increase to Fund 005 (General) and the overall budget in the amount of \$409.00. This grant was anticipated and budgeted for the amount of \$19,572.00 but was awarded \$19,981.00 which is the reason for the fiscal impact increase of \$409.00.

- J. Request approval of Interlocal Agreement with the City of Avon Park of \$145,000.

Brandon Gunn, Parks & Facilities Director

There is no fiscal impact with the approval of the interlocal agreement with Avon Park. The fiscal impact within Fund 151 (Infrastructure Surtax) of \$145,000 was recognized during the 2/17/26 Board meeting when budget amendment 25-26-055 was approved by the Board.

- K. Request approval of County Surplus disposal. (\$0)

Chris Prudzinski, Road & Bridge Operations Supervisor

The fiscal impact is unknown. Revenue generated from sale proceeds will be distributed into the appropriate revenue accounts.

- L. Request approval of reclassification of Community Programs Specialist to Community Programs Coordinator.(\$5,750)

Ingrashere Gardner, Community Programs Director

The fiscal impact is \$5,750 and will be budgeted accordingly in Fund 005, Cost Center 5330.

- M. Request approval of Budget Amendment 25-26-071 for the purchase of a vehicle for Clerk IT staff (\$40,008).

Theodore Watts, Chief Information Officer

The fiscal impact of \$40,008 to Fund 151 (Infrastructure Surtax) is being transferred from Project 21047 (Clerk Technology Infrastructure Improvements) to cost center 2111A (Central Svcs – 151), account 56400 (Machinery & Equipment) for a net fiscal impact of \$0.00.

- N. Request approval of the minutes from the March 3, 2026, Regular Meeting of the Board.

Pamela Gamez, Official Records Manager

No fiscal impact.

- O. Request approval of Amendment 2 between Highlands County and Placer Labs, Inc. (\$37,800)

Leah Sauls, Development Services Director

The fiscal impact is \$37,800 budgeted between cost centers, 3400 Development Services \$3,000, 3440A Building \$12,000, 2810 Economic Development \$12,000, and 5305 Tourism \$10,800.

9. Committee Assignments

- A. Request to appoint regular member to Construction Licensing Enforcement and Appeals Board.

Charles Dorman

No fiscal impact.

- B. Request the resignation of two NRAC members and consideration of appointment for Professional and Agricultural positions based on review of six applicants.

Samuel Erkisen

No fiscal impact.

10. Public Hearing

- A. Request adoption of Ordinance No. 25-26-10, extension of a burn ban pursuant to Florida Statutes, Section 125.66.

James Duppenhaler, Fire Chief

There is no fiscal impact.

11. County Attorney and County Administrator

- A. County Attorney Status Report

Sherry Sutphen

No fiscal impact.

- B. County Administrator Status Report

Laurie Hurner, County Administrator

There is no fiscal impact.

12. Commissioners

13. Informational

A. Board payables from April 7-20, 2026

B. Quarter One Highlands County Library System Item Surplus
Vikki Brown, Library System Manager

No fiscal impact

14. 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.