

Highlands County Board of County Commissioners
Tuesday, May 5, 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, May 5, 2026, in the Boardroom, 600 S. Commerce Ave., Sebring, FL

A Hearing of Code Enforcement Special Magistrate will be held at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, May 6, 2026, in the Boardroom, 600 S. Commerce Ave., Sebring, FL

The Highlands County Insurance Committee will meet at 10:00 a.m., on Thursday, May 7, 2026, in the Boardroom, 600 S. Commerce Ave., Sebring, FL

The Highlands County Hospital District will meet at 1:30 p.m., on Friday, May 8, 2026, in the Boardroom, 600 S. Commerce Ave., Sebring, FL

The Highlands County Board of County Commissioners will hold a Special Meeting to workshop impact fees at 9:00 a.m., on Tuesday, May 12, 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, May 12, 2026, in the Boardroom, 600 S. Commerce Ave., Sebring, FL

- 5. Constitutional Officers - Announcements**

- 6. Recognitions, Presentations and Proclamations**

- A. Recognition of Nancy Dodd on her retirement after 34 years of service to Duke Energy and as Highlands County's Community Relations Manager.

Laurie Hurner, County Administrator, Corey Amundsen, Emergency Management Manager

No fiscal impact

- B. Request approval of a Proclamation recognizing May 3-9, 2026, as "National Travel and Tourism Week" in Highlands County, Florida.

Casey Hartt, Lead Marketing Consultant

No fiscal impact

- C. Request approval of Proclamation recognizing May 17th through May 23rd as "Emergency Medical Services Week".
James Duppenhaler, Fire Chief
No fiscal impact.
- D. Request approval of a Proclamation recognizing May 2026 as Mental Health Awareness and Trauma-Informed Care Month in Highlands County, Florida
Aisha Alayande, Heartland Core Wellness
No fiscal impact
- E. Request approval of a Proclamation recognizing May 2026, as "Historic Preservation Month" in Highlands County
Rachael Navarrete, Planner I
No fiscal impact.
- F. Request approval of a Proclamation recognizing May 18, 2026, as "International Museum Day" in Highlands County, Florida
Laurie Hurner, County Administrator
No fiscal impact.

7. Public Comment

8. Consent Agenda

- A. Request approval of BA 25-26-079 transfer of funding to appropriate accounts for standby generator at Fire Station 33 (\$31,122.00).
James Duppenhaler, Fire Chief

The fiscal impact of \$31,122.00 is merely correcting the split funding between the Fire Assessment (Fund 181) allocation (40% to 75%), an increase of \$14,523.60 and the EMS (Fund 005) allocation (60% to 25%), a decrease of \$14,523.60 and transferring the incorrect posting in the Fire Assessment account 59900 Reserve for contingency of \$16,598.40 to account 56400 Machinery and Equipment.
- B. Request approval of Amendment 1 to Agreement with Lake June Pontoon. (\$0)
Casey Hartt, Lead Marketing Consultant

The fiscal impact is limited to a change in the fiscal years during which the annual reimbursement of up to \$50,000 may be issued. Eligible Years 1, 2, and 3 are now designated as FY26, FY27, and FY28.
- C. Request approval of Budget Amendment 25-26-080 for temporary staffing. (\$35,668)
Brandon Gunn, Parks & Facilities Director

The fiscal impact is a decrease of \$35,668.00 to account 51200 (Regular Salaries & Wages) and an increase to account 53400 (Contractual Services)

within Fund 005 (General), Cost Center 2672 (Facilities Management).

- D. Request approval for waiver of fees for Highlands County Native Plant Society. (\$480)

Brandon Gunn, Parks & Facilities Director

This waiver would result in a potential loss of revenue for the rental of the Bert J. Harris, Jr. Agricultural Civic Center, of approximately \$480.00.

- E. Request approval of Payment Without PO to Johnson Controls (\$0).

Brandon Gunn, Parks & Facilities Director

There is no fiscal impact on Fund 005 (General) as funding has been allocated to Cost Center 1031B (Court Facilities), Account 53400 (Contractual Services) for FY 2025-26.

- F. Request approval of agreement with Cardinal Vending and Markets, LLC

Brandon Gunn, Parks & Facilities Director

The fiscal impact would be ten percent (10%) of gross sales to the Fund 005 (General) revenue account.

- G. Approve the minutes from the March 17, 2026, Regular Meeting of the Board.

Pamela Gamez, Official Records Manager

No fiscal impact.

- H. Request approval of Amendment 1 with Alfred Benesch & Company. (\$19,000.00)

Leah Sauls, Development Services Director

The fiscal impact is \$19,000.00, to be paid from Project 24029; however, there is no increase to the overall cost of the impact fee project. These services will be funded using the prior allocation for the stormwater portion of the study, which was canceled. The County had previously allocated \$35,000 for the stormwater fee, and the cost of these services will be drawn from that canceled portion of the study.

9. Public Hearing

- A. Request adoption of Ordinance No. 25-26-12, extension of a burn ban pursuant to Florida Statutes, Section 125.66.

James Duppenhaler, Fire Chief

There is no fiscal impact.

- B. Public hearing to consider the final determination of the suspension or revocation of Rapid Response's COPCN.

Dustin Fitch, Deputy Chief

There is no fiscal impact.

10. Action Agenda

- A. Request approval of Amendment No. 2 to the Agreement with Ajax Building Company LLC through Change Order No. 001R5 for the Jail Expansion Project. (\$1,994,492.00)

Tiffany Gunn, Capital Projects Manager

The fiscal impact of this change order is \$1,994,492.00.

- B. Request adoption of Resolution 25-26-123R for Budget Amendment 25-26-083 for the Jail Expansion Project. (\$1,994,492.00).

Tiffany Gunn, Capital Projects Manager

The fiscal impact is an increase to Fund 350 (HCISSR LTD Capital) in the amount of \$1,994,492.00 and is being appropriated in Project 21064 (Co. Jail Facility Expansion), cost center 2680G (HCISSR LTD Capital 2025), account 56200Z (Project Buildings).

- C. Request adoption of Resolution No. 25-26-118 extending the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for Med-Trans Corporation d/b/a AirStar 1.

Dustin Fitch, Deputy Chief

No fiscal impact.

- D. Request approval to apply for Department of Environmental Protection Trail Grant (\$200,000.00)

Dawn Ritter, Natural Resources Manager

The fiscal impact of \$200,000 will be allocated from Project #23016, Fund 151, Cost Center 6303A.

- E. Request adoption of Resolution 25-26-120 for Budget Amendment 25-26-082 to realign/provide additional funding for negative cost centers (\$692,288.00).

David Nitz, OMB Manager

The fiscal impact is an increase to Fund 215 (ISSR Revenue Note) in the amount of \$691,805 which is being appropriated in cost center 8115 (ISSR Revenue Note), account 57100 (Principal Payment), and an increase to Fund 225 (Public Improvement Revenue Note) in the amount of \$483.00 which is being appropriated in cost center 8125 (Public Improvement Revenue Note), account 57200 (Interest Payment). In addition, this budget amendment is transferring available funding in Fund 005 (General) in the amount of \$8,700 from cost center 5108 (HCRA), account 53400 (Contractual Svcs) to cost center 1026 (Guardian Ad Litem), account 54100 (Communications & Freight), cost center 1052 (Misdemeanor Probation), account 53400 (Contractual Svcs), and cost center 2107 (Human Resources), account 53400 (Contractual Svcs), in the amounts of \$1,350, \$3,750, and \$3,600, respectively.

11. County Attorney and County Administrator

- A. County Attorney Status Report

Sherry Sutphen

There is no fiscal impact.

B. County Administrator Status Report

12. Commissioners

13. Informational

A. Board payables from May 5-18, 2026

B. Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) — Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Update

Uladzislau Bilukha, Assistant County Engineer, Laura Borgesi, County Engineer, PE, PSM, MPA

No Fiscal Impact at this time.

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.