

Highlands County Board of County Commissioners
Tuesday, July 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 Construction Licensing, Enforcement and Appeals Board will meet at 7:00 p.m., on Tuesday, July 7, 2026, in the Boardroom, 600 S. Commerce Ave., Sebring, FL

The Historic Preservation Commission will meet at 2:30 p.m., on Thursday, July 9, 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, July 15, 2026, in the Emergency Operations Center Old War Room, 6850 George Blvd., Sebring, FL

- 5. Constitutional Officers - Announcements**

- 6. Recognitions, Presentations and Proclamations**

- A. Central Square Technologies presentation

Theodore Watts, Chief Information Officer, Tanya Cannady, Business Services Director, Alicia Dean, Technology Program Coordinator

None

- 7. Public Comment**

- 8. Consent Agenda**

- A. Request approval of Budget Amendment 25-26-094 to adjust the Property Appraiser budgeted funding for FY 25/26.

David Nitz, OMB Manager

The fiscal impact of \$35,795.00 to Fund 005 (General) is actually a transfer from cost center 9990 (Budgetary Expenditures 005), account 59900 (Reserve for Contingency) to cost center 2211 (Property Appraiser), account 54900 (Other Charges/Obligations) with a net fiscal impact of \$0.00.

- B. Request approval to waive rental fees and associated Special Event Permit fees for Venus Community Foundation (\$1,675.00).

Brandon Gunn, Parks & Facilities Director

The fiscal impact would be a loss in revenues of a total of \$1,675.00; \$800.00 to Fund 005 (General) account 3475300 (Civic Center), \$700.00 to Fund 005 (General) account 3419100 (Other General Govt Fees), and \$175.00 to Fund 005 (General) account 3699000 (Other Misc Revenue).

- C. Request approval of Amendment 1 to the agreement between Highlands County and CivilSurv Design Group Inc. (\$0.00)

Stacy Prevatte, Procurement Manager

No fiscal impact.

- D. Request approval of Amendment 1 to the agreement between Highlands County and The Lunz Group LLC. (\$0.00)

Stacy Prevatte, Procurement Manager

No Fiscal Impact.

- E. Request approval of Agreement with SRQ Pest Managment LLC for Pest Management Services.

Brandon Gunn, Parks & Facilities Director

The fiscal impact is \$21,340.00 to Fund 005, (General Fund), Cost Center 2672, (Facilities Management), Cost Center 1031 (Court Facilities), and Cost Center 5105 (Emergency management); Fund 181 (Fire Assessment Funds), Cost Center 3217 (Fire Assessment), Account 54900 (Other Charges/Obligations); and Fund 107 (Placid Lakes SBD), Fund 128 (Sun 'N Lakes Placid Rec) and Fund 148 (Highlands Park Est SBD). These funds were submitted in the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 budget(s).

- F. Request approval of License Agreement between Roam Projects, LLC and Highlands County. (+\$1,176.40; -\$10,000)

Leah Sauls, Development Services Director

There is a fiscal impact increase of revenue in the amount of \$1,176.40 to the General Fund (005) account 3475400. There is also a Fiscal Impact of \$10,000 to Fund 152 (Tourist Development Trust) for the expense of advertising Visit Sebring and Highlands County during the event's broadcast.

- G. Request approval of a Letter of Support to South Florida State College for a nutrient reduction project in Lake Glenada. (\$0.00)

Dawn Ritter, Natural Resources Manager

No fiscal impact

- H. Request approval to accept \$10,000.00 donation from the Highlands Soil & Water Conservation District. (+\$10,000.00).

Dawn Ritter, Natural Resources Manager

Increase of \$10,000.00 to cost center 6303, account 53400Z.

- I. Request adoption of Resolution 25-26-141 for Budget Amendment 25-26-098

to provide annual Transportation Trust funding for the Sebring Parkway maintenance (\$84,050.00).

David Nitz, OMB Manager

The fiscal impact is an increase to Fund 110 (Transportation Trust) in the amount of \$84,050.00 and will be appropriated in cost center 9101I (Interfund Transfers 110) which will then be transferred to Fund 175 (Sebring Parkway Maintenance) for the BCC's share of escrow for future roadway maintenance.

- J. Request for signature for the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) grant award for FY25-26 along with the Adoption of Resolution 25-26-142 for Budget Amendment 25-26-101 (174,984.00).

Paul Blackman, Sheriff

There is no additional fiscal impact to Fund 005 (General) or the overall budget as the budget amendment is merely assigning a project number to the adopted budget funds. A match of funds by the Board in the amount of \$58,328.00 was approved in the FY25-26 Adopted Budget.

- K. Request adoption of Resolution 25-26-140 for Budget Amendment 25-26-097 to the Natural Resources cost center for the GIS layer to provide insight on water quality and water storage areas in the County project (\$10,000.00).

Dawn Ritter, Natural Resources Manager

Fiscal impact is an increase to Fund 005 (General Fund), cost center 6303 (Natural Resources), account 53400Z (Project Contractual Svcs), project number 25049 (GIS Water Quality & Water Storage Modeling Tool) in the amount of \$10,000.00.

- L. Request to approve Budget Amendment 25-26-092 and the accompanying resolution to add additional funding for roadway construction to the Memorial Dr. - Pompano Dr. multi-use path, Project Number 17034.

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

The fiscal impact is an increase to Fund 151 (Infrastructure Surtax) in the amount of \$959,689.57 in Cost Center 4102A (Transportation Projects), Project Number 17034 (Memorial Dr. - Pompano Dr. to Sebring Parkway), Account No. 56301Z (Project Capital Improvements) which is being funded by a US DOT Grant. In addition, a transfer from Fund 110 (Transportation Trust) in the amount of \$24,460.00, from Cost Center 4101 (Engineering Services, Account No. 53100 (Professional Services) to Project 17034, account 56301Z for a current total project amount of \$3,173,813.76.

- M. Request approval of Budget Amendment 25-26-093 for the purchase of a vehicle for Clerk IT staff (\$40,723).

Theodore Watts, Chief Information Officer

The fiscal impact of \$40,723 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 application for dumpster service to the Lake Placid Memorial Library. (\$0)

Vikki Brown, Library System Manager

No fiscal impact

- O. Request approval of The Lunz Group CSA 2-1 for time extension on Fire Rescue Station #23 (\$0.00)

Tiffany Gunn, Capital Projects Manager

There is no additional fiscal impact.

- P. Request Approval of CivilSurv CSA 1-1 for Fire Rescue Station #23 (\$31,080)

Tiffany Gunn, Capital Projects Manager

The fiscal impact of CSA 1-1 is \$30,080 which is currently budgeted in 2685 56200Z 21104.

9. Committee Assignments

- A. Appointment of Elsie Sellers to the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee. (\$0)

Kimberly Wean, Housing Program Manager

There is no fiscal impact.

- B. Request approval of one (1) regular member to the Tourist Development Council.

Reagan Fultz, Tourism Project & Marketing Mgr.

No fiscal impact.

10. Public Hearing

- A. Public hearing to request the approval of Emerge Transport LLC application for a Class 1 Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (COPCN).

Dustin Fitch, Deputy Chief

There is no fiscal impact.

- B. Public hearing to request the adoption of Resolution No. 25-26-131 to Vacate Existing Drainage Easements

Laura Borgesi, County Engineer, PE, PSM, MPA

No Fiscal Impact.

11. Action Agenda

- A. Request approval of a request from the Highlands County School Board to waive tipping fees associated with the demolition of the Teacherage Building

Laurie Hurner, County Administrator

Landfill staff estimates that the Highlands County School Board will haul an estimated one hundred fifty (150) tons of Class 1 waste at a cost of \$55.00 per ton for a total of \$8,250.00 to be waived. The figures are based upon the estimate provided by Highlands County School Board.

- B. Request adoption of 25-26-136, pertaining to the issuance of Highlands County Health Facilities Authority Revenue Bonds (AdventHealth Obligated Group) in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$400,000,000

Sherry Sutphen

Section 3 of the proposed Resolution expressly provides that any bonds that may be issued do not constitute a debt, liability or obligation of Highlands County or the State and will not obligate any tax money for the repayment.

- C. Request approval to purchase asphalt millings (\$225,000)

Jonathan Harrison, Road & Bridge Director

Fiscal Impact is up to \$225,000 from the asphalt set aside account #14014 (Fund 420)

12. County Attorney and County Administrator

- A. Summary Presentation of the FY2026/2027 Recommended Budget

David Nitz, OMB Manager, Valerie Fleeger, Senior Budget Analyst

There is no fiscal impact at this time.

- B. County Attorney Status Report

Maya Wiseman, Legal Assistant

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- C. County Administrator Status Report

13. Commissioners

14. Informational

- A. Quarter Two Highlands County Library System Item Surplus

Vikki Brown, Library System Manager

No fiscal impact

- B. Board payables from July 7, 2026, through July 20, 2026

- C. Letter of support for the Caladium Arts & Crafts Cooperative, Inc.

Laurie Hurner, County Administrator, 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.