

Highlands County Board of County Commissioners
Tuesday, July 21, 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 Heartland Library Cooperative Governing Board will hold a special meeting at 10:30 a.m., on Wednesday, July 29, 2026, in the Meeting Room of the Lake Placid Memorial Library at 205 W Interlake Blvd, Lake Placid, FL 33852

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission announces a Public Hearing for the Platt Branch Wildlife and Environmental Area Management Plan at 6:00 p.m., on Wednesday, July 29, 2026, in the Town of Lake Placid Community Room, 1069 US HWY 27 N, Lake Placid, FL 33852

- 5. Constitutional Officers - Announcements**

- 6. Public Comment**

- 7. Consent Agenda**

- A. Request adoption of Resolution 25-26-139 for Budget Amendment 25-26-096 for additional funding for 4108 (Shell Pit) for repairs (\$79,000)

Jonathan Harrison, Road & Bridge Director

The fiscal impact is an increase of \$44,000.00 in Fund 110 (Transportation Trust) from Fund Balance Brought Forward and being appropriated in cost center 4108 (Shell Pit), account 54600 (Repair & Maintenance). In addition, \$35,000.00 is being transferred from cost center 4101 (Engineering Services) to cost center 4108 to provide additional operating account funding. The total fiscal impact is \$79,000.00.

- B. Request approval of Budget Amendment 25-26-100 to realign Project 19037 Thunderbird Drainage Improvement (\$15,000.00).

Jonathan Harrison, Road & Bridge Director

The fiscal impact of \$15,000.00 in Fund 151 (Infrastructure Surtax) is merely a realignment of funding within Project 19037, transferring funds from account 56301Z (Project Capital Infrastructure) to account 56100Z (Project Land).

- C. Request approval of Kimley Horn CSA 3-3 for Sebring Fuel Station project. (\$10,930.00)

Tiffany Gunn, Capital Projects Manager

The fiscal impact is \$10,930.00 which is currently budgeted in 4102A 56300Z 21112.

- D. Request approval of License Agreement between Center Ridge Caretaking, Inc. and Highlands County. (\$0)

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

There is no fiscal impact.

8. Public Hearing

- A. Public hearing to consider adoption of Resolution 25-26-143 for P&Z 2192, amending the Official Zoning Atlas for an approximate 9.11-acre parcel from AU Agricultural District to R-3 Multiple-Family Dwelling including Motel and Hotel District.

Rachael Navarrete, Planner I, Cynthia Carman Kramer, Planning & Zoning Manager

No fiscal impact.

- B. Public hearing to consider adoption of Resolution 25-26-144, for P&Z 2193, amending the Official Zoning Atlas for twelve parcels totaling approximately 6.3 acres from R-1 Residential District to R-2 Two-Family Dwelling District.

Hailey Collinsworth, Planner I, Cynthia Carman Kramer, Planning & Zoning Manager

No fiscal impact.

- C. Public hearing to consider adoption of Ordinance 25-26-18 for CPA-26-653SS, amending the Future Land Use Map designation for five parcels totaling approximately 1.9 acres from Agriculture (AG) to Commercial (C).

Rachael Navarrete, Planner I, Cynthia Carman Kramer, Planning & Zoning Manager

No fiscal impact

- D. Public hearing to consider adoption of Resolution 25-26-145, for P&Z 2194, amending the Official Zoning Atlas for five parcels totaling approximately 1.9 acres, from B-2 Limited Business District to B-3 CU Business District with a Conditional Use

Rachael Navarrete, Planner I, Cynthia Carman Kramer, Planning & Zoning Manager

No fiscal impact.

- E. Public hearing to consider adoption of Preliminary Resolution 25-26-152 pertaining to the re-imposition of the solid waste special assessment.

Tanya Cannady, Business Services Director

The fiscal impact is a proposed increase in the assessment to \$280.56 which would be an increase of approximately \$1,829,261 in assessment revenue for Fund 401 (Solid Waste) based on the current residential unit count.

9. Action Agenda

- A. 1. Request adoption of Resolution 25-26-137 approving the grant agreement with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for the Highlands County Master Stormwater Plan and Thunderbird Road Drainage Improvements, Project Number 25050

2. Request adoption of Resolution 25-26-148 for Budget Amendment 25-26-103 (\$1,322,500.00)

Laura Borgesi, County Engineer, PE, PSM, MPA

The fiscal impact will be an increase to Fund 151 (Infrastructure Surtax) and will be appropriated in Cost Center 4102A (Transportation Projects), Project 25050 (Master Stormwater Plans & Thunderbird Drainage Improvements) in the amount of \$1,322,500.

- B. Request direction related to the Town of Lake Placid's request to amend the Interlocal Agreement related to the construction of pickleball courts at Lake June Park.

Brandon Gunn, Parks & Facilities Director

Fiscal Impact to Fund 151 (Infrastructure Surtax), CC 6101A (Recreation Dept 151), Account 58100Z (Aid To Government Ag Proj), Project 23110 (Lake June Park Phase 3) is undetermined.

- C. Request approval of agreement with Wander Media Company (\$98,500.00)
Casey Hartt, Lead Marketing Consultant

The fiscal impact is an expense of \$98,500.00 to come from Fund 152 (Tourist Development Trust), cost center 5305 (Tourist Development-Marketing & Promotion) and is included in the current adopted budget.

- D. Request adoption of Resolution 25-26-150 for Budget Amendment 25-26-105 for Project 25052 for the purchase of two tankers (\$2,036,459.76).

Dustin Fitch, Deputy Chief

The fiscal impact is an increase to Fund 181 (Fire Assessment) in the amount of \$575,436.29 which is coming from Fund Balance and being appropriated in cost center 3217 (Fire Assessment), account 56400Z (Project Equipment), and Project 25052 (Tanker Replacements). In addition, \$100,000.00 is being transferred within cost center 3217 from account 59900 (Reserve for Contingency) and \$1,361,023.47 from account 54600 (Machinery & Equipment) to Project 25052, account 56400Z for a total fiscal impact of \$2,036,459.76.

- E. Request to Certify the Maximum Millage for FY26/27.

David Nitz, OMB Manager, Laurie Hurner, County Administrator

Ad Valorem revenue is projected to comprise 62.53% of the total projected General Fund revenues in FY 26/27. Failure to certify millage would put those

revenues and state revenue sharing funds at risk.

- F. Request adoption of Resolution No. 25-26-151 reducing the speed limit in Spring Lake from 30 mph to 25 mph.

Laura Borgesi, County Engineer, PE, PSM, MPA

The fiscal impact will be a total of \$1,736.34 from the Transportation Trust Fund #110, Traffic Operations Cost Center 4105, Signs-Outside Entities Account #55221.

10. County Attorney and County Administrator

- A. County Attorney Status Report

- B. County Administrator Status Report

11. Commissioners

12. Informational

- A. Letter of Support National Education Association Grant for Arts Project

Laurie Hurner, County Administrator

None

- B. Board payables from July 21, 2026, through August 3, 2026

13. 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.