

Highlands County Board of County Commissioners
Tuesday, August 4, 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**

Highlands County Code Enforcement will hold a Special Magistrate Hearing at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, August 5, 2026, in the Board Room at 600 South Commerce Avenue, Sebring, FL 33870.

The Planning and Zoning Commission/Local Planning Agency (P&Z) will meet at 3:15 p.m. on Tuesday, August 11, 2026, in the Board Room at 600 South Commerce Avenue, Sebring, FL.

The Board of Commissioners of the Highlands County Hospital District will hold a special meeting at 1:30 p.m., on Tuesday, August 14, 2026, in the Board Room at 600 South Commerce Avenue, Sebring, Florida 33870

- 5. Constitutional Officers - Announcements**

- 6. Recognitions, Presentations and Proclamations**

- A. Year-to-date Fire Review.
Dustin Fitch, Deputy Chief
None

- 7. Public Comment**

- 8. Consent Agenda**

- A. Request adoption of Resolution 25-26-155 for Budget Amendment 25-26-110 for Fuel Master software. (\$14,247.69)

Tiffany Gunn, Capital Projects Manager

The fiscal impact is a increase of \$14,247.69 to Fund 110 (Transportation Trust) with Fund Balance Brought Forward and being appropriated in cost center 4102 (Road & Bridges), account 56810 (PC Software Purchase \$25K+).

- B. Request approval to expend funds from the Special Law Enforcement Trust Fund (\$40,000.00)

Paul Blackman, Sheriff

This contribution will be funded through the Special Law Enforcement Trust

fund, therefore, no fiscal impact to any government agency.

- C. Request adoption of Resolution 25-26-154 for Budget Amendment 25-26-109 to set up Project 25055 using grant funding received from the Duke Energy Foundation to further enhance the County's preparedness outreach efforts. (\$10,000)

Karen Clogston, Public Information Officer

The fiscal impact is an increase of \$10,000 to Fund 005 with funds being appropriated in cost center 2109 (Public Information), account 54800Z (Project Promotional Activities).

- D. Request approval of the Amendment between Highlands County and Tetra Tech, Inc. (\$0.00)

Stacy Prevatte, Procurement Manager

No fiscal impact.

- E. Request approval of Amendment between Highlands County and Phillips Environmental, LLC. (\$0.00)

Stacy Prevatte, Procurement Manager

No fiscal impact.

- F. Request approval of Amendment between Highlands County and Ceres Environmental Services, Inc. (\$0.00)

Stacy Prevatte, Procurement Manager

No fiscal impact.

- G. Request approval of Amendment 1 to the agreement between Highlands County and AIM Engineering & Surveying Inc. (\$0.00)

Stacy Prevatte, Procurement Manager

No fiscal impact.

- H. Request to approve the minutes from the June 2, 2026, June 16, 2026, and June 30, 2026, meetings of the Board.

Pamela Gamez, Official Records Director

No fiscal impact.

9. Public Hearing

- A. Public hearing to approve Resolution 25-26-157 of the Highlands County Fire Protection Municipal Service Benefit Unit pertaining to the re-imposition of the fire protection special assessment.

Tanya Cannady, Business Services Director, James Duppenhaler, Fire Chief, Dustin Fitch, Deputy Chief

The fiscal impact to the fire assessment fund 181 is an estimated net revenue

of \$11,242,883.

10. Action Agenda

- A. Request approval of State of Florida Law Enforcement Salary Assistance ("LESA") award for Fiscally Constrained Counties and authorize Board Chair to sign the Grant Award Agreement No. AJ015 along with the Adoption of Resolution 25-26-153 for Budget Amendment 25-26-108 (\$425,830.25).

Paul Blackman, Sheriff

The Fiscal Impact will be an increase to Fund 005 (General) to the County's FY25-26 budget in the amount \$425,830.25. The total grant amount for the States FY26-27 from July 1, 2026 thru June 30, 2027 is \$1,703,321, however $\frac{3}{4}$'s of that amount (\$1,277,490.75) will fall in FY26-27.

- B. Request Budget Amendment 25-26-107 to realign road construction funding (\$620,000.00).

Jonathan Harrison, Road & Bridge Director

Fiscal impact of \$620,000.00 to Fund 151 (infrastructure Surtax) is realigning budgeted funds within cost center 4102A (Transportation Projects) from Project 25012 (R&B Reconstruct), account 56301Z (Proj Capital Imfrastructure) to account 55303 (Resurface Asphalt).

- C. Request approval of a five (5) year renewal for OpenGov Inc. (\$280,285)

Jonathan Harrison, Road & Bridge Director

Fiscal impact is 280,285.00 over a five (5) year agreement from Fund 110.

- D. Request approval of the third amendment and restated franchise agreement between Florida Waste Solutions, LLC and Highlands County

Laurie Hurner, County Administrator, James Langford, Assistant County Administrator

The estimated net fiscal impact of \$6,300,000 to the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund for fiscal year 26/27 (year 1) based on 41,000 residential units monthly and 1,778 tons of C&D landfill fees incurred monthly.

11. 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.

12. Commissioners

13. Informational

- A. Board payables from August 4, 2026, through August 17, 2026

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.