

Highlands County Board of County Commissioners
Tuesday, August 18, 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 Highlands County Insurance Committee will hold a Regular Meeting at 10:00 a.m., on Wednesday, August 19, 2026, in the Board Room at 600 South Commerce Avenue, Sebring, FL 33870.

The Heartland Library Cooperative Governing Board will hold a Regular Meeting at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, August 19, 2026, in the Meeting Room of the Lake Placid Memorial Library at 205 W Interlake Blvd, Lake Placid, FL, 33852.

The Value Adjustment Board will hold a meeting for the purpose of selecting a new VAB Attorney at 4:00 p.m., on Thursday, August 20, 2026, in the Board Room at 600 South Commerce Avenue, Sebring, FL, 33870.

The Natural Resources Advisory Commission will hold a Regular Meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 26, 2026, at 4344 George Blvd, Sebring, FL 33875, in the Road & Bridge Conference Room 1.

The Board of Commissioners of the Highlands County Hospital District will hold a Regular Meeting at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 27, 2026, in the Board Room at 600 South Commerce Avenue, Sebring, FL 33870.

The Children's Advocacy Center, along with the State Attorney's Office, will hold a Protect Your Children from Sex Offenders free community training from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Saturday, September 26, 2026, in the Children's Advocacy Center Large Conference Room, 1968 Sebring Pkwy, Sebring, FL 33870.

- 5. Recognitions, Presentations and Proclamations**

- A. Medal of Valor Presentation**

Dustin Fitch, Deputy Chief

No fiscal impact

- B. Highlights from TDC Staff's Presentation given at Destinations Florida Annual Marketing Summit**

Casey Hartt, Lead Marketing Consultant, Shellie Phelps

No fiscal impact

6. Public Comment

7. Consent Agenda

- A. Request approval of the State Housing Initiative Program (SHIP) Annual Report for 2022-2023 (\$0).

Kimberly Wean, Housing Program Manager

No fiscal impact.

- B. Request approval to waive field rental fees for YMCA 2026 Fall Soccer Program. (\$1,300.00)

Brandon Gunn, Parks & Facilities Director

The fiscal impact would be a loss in revenues for account 3475100, Highlands County Multi-sports complex in the amount of \$1,300.00.

- C. Request approval to waive field rental fees for the Sebring High School 2026 Cross Country Athletic Program (\$435.00)

Brandon Gunn, Parks & Facilities Director

The fiscal impact would be a loss in revenues to account 3475100, Highlands County Multi-sports complex in the amount of \$435.00.

- D. Request approval of the Interlocal Agreement between Highlands County and the City of Sebring related to Mutual Aid for Fire Protection. (\$0)

James Duppenthaler, Fire Chief

There is no anticipated direct fiscal impact associated with approval of this Agreement.

- E. i. Request approval of Amendment #1 to the agreement between Highlands County and Jones, Edmunds & Associates, Inc. (\$0)

- ii. Request approval of Task Authorization #1 25-015 with Jones, Edmunds & Associates, Inc. (\$92,900.00)

Robert Diefendorf, Project Engineer

No fiscal impact for the Agreement. The fiscal impact related to the Task Authorization of \$92,900.00 to Fund 401 (Solid Waste) has available funds in cost center 4210 (Refuse Disposal System), account 53100 (Professional Services).

- F. Request to accept into the record the Court-Related and Other Miscellaneous Funds Revenue and Expenditures Summary, for the Quarter ended June 30, 2026.

Sally Hood, CPA, CGFM, Accounting and Finance Director

No Fiscal Impact

- G. Request approval of the Tower Removal Agreement between Highlands County; Elizabeth I Peeples, property owner; and CitySwitch Devco 1, LLC,

tower owner/operator

Melony Culpepper, Planning & Zoning Supervisor

No fiscal impact.

- H. Request approval of Budget Amendment 25-26-112 for the Hospital District Board Grant FY 24/25. (\$0)

Gail Werley, CAC Manager

The fiscal impact of \$5,852.74 in Fund 155 (Hospital District) is merely a realignment of funding within Project 24022 (Hospital District Board 24/25), cost center 1155 (Hospital District) and moving funds from accounts 51200Z (Proj. Regular Salaries), 52400Z (Proj. Workers' Comp.), 53400Z (Proj. Contractual Svcs), and 55200Z (Proj. Operating Supplies) in the amounts of \$1,692.91, \$20.57, \$3,630.92, and \$508.34 to accounts 52100Z (Proj. FICA Taxes) and 52200Z (Proj. Retirement Contributions in the amounts of \$1,229.15 and \$4,623.59, totaling \$5,852.74.

- I. Request approval of a Letter of Support to Archbold for a funding application for the Roebling Roof Rehabilitation Project, Phase 1. (\$0)

Laurie Hurner, County Administrator

No fiscal impact.

- J. Request approval of a Letter of Support for the development of Emergency Medical Responders (EMRs) and Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs).

James Duppenhalter, Fire Chief

There is no fiscal impact associated with this request. Approval of the Letter of Support does not obligate Highlands County to provide funding, staffing, equipment, or other resources.

- K. Request approval of the minutes from the July 7, 2026, Regular Meeting of the Board and the July 14, 2026, Budget Workshop.

Pamela Gamez, Official Records Director

No fiscal impact.

8. Public Hearing

- A. Public hearing to consider adoption of Final Resolution 25-26-163 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. Request adoption of the Highlands County Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Action Area Plans (\$0)

Curtis Knowles, Jennifer Hecker, Marisa Gleason

No fiscal impact.

10. County Attorney and County Administrator

A. County Attorney Status Report

Sherry Sutphen, County Attorney

No fiscal impact.

B. County Administrator Status Report

Laurie Hurner, County Administrator

No fiscal impact.

i. Workshop to discuss the proposed FY26-27 Budget

11. Commissioners

12. Informational

A. Notification of County Administrator's approval of TDC Event Grant. (\$10,000)

Reagan Fultz, Tourism Project & Marketing Mgr.

There is no fiscal impact to Fund 152 (Tourist Development Trust) or the overall budget, as there are funds budgeted in FY25/26 for marketing said event. The 2026 Caladium Festival is eligible for \$10,000.00 from Fund 152 (Tourist Development Trust) and cost center 5305 (Tourist Dev-Marketing and Promotion).

B. Board payables from August 4, 2026, through August 17, 2026.

Laurie Hurner, County Administrator

C. Third Amendment and Restatement of Franchise Agreement for Solid Waste Collection

Office of the County Attorney

No Fiscal Impact.

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.