



# Polk County Board of County Commissioners

## Meeting Minutes - Final

### August 05, 2025 Regular BoCC meeting

In accordance with the American with Disabilities Act, persons with disabilities needing special accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact the Communications Office not later than 48 hours prior to the proceeding. Their office is located in the County Administration Building, 330 West Church Street in Bartow. Telephone (863) 534-6090 or TTY (863) 534-7777. If hearing impaired dial 7-1-1 for Florida Relay services or call (800) 955-8771 (TTY); dial (800) 955-1339 if you are using a computer.

Any invocation that may be offered before the official start of the Commission meeting shall be the voluntary offering of a private citizen, to and for the benefit of the Commission. The views or beliefs expressed by the invocation speaker have not been previously 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.

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the board with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, 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 includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

### CALL TO ORDER - 9:00 a.m. (RICK WILSON, CHAIR)

### INVOCATION

Murphy Hanley, Polk County Fire Rescue Chaplain

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (RICK WILSON, CHAIR)

### B. PUBLIC COMMENTS CONCERNING AGENDA ITEMS

B.1. Comments.

**Minutes:** No public comments on agenda items at this time.

### C. APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

#### C. APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

C.1. Approve Consent Agenda.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Martha Santiago
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Bill Braswell
<b>AYE:</b>	Troutman, Wilson, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott

### D. COUNTY COMPTROLLER (STACY M. BUTTERFIELD, CPA)

D.1. Disbursements.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Bill Braswell
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Martha Santiago
<b>AYE:</b>	Troutman, Wilson, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott

D.2. Minutes of Regular Board meeting held on July 15, 2025.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Becky Troutman
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Martha Santiago
<b>AYE:</b>	Troutman, Wilson, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott

## **G. COUNTY MANAGER (BILL BEASLEY)**

### **G. COUNTY MANAGER (BILL BEASLEY)**

G.1. Approve CIP Amendment and budget transfer from the Chestnut Sidewalk Project to the Willow Ridge, Lake Seward, and Davenport Drainage Projects within the General Capital Improvement Fund (\$2,800,000.00 one-time budget transfer)

**Minutes:** County Manager Bill Beasley reviewed the CIP amendment and budget transfer from the Chestnut Sidewalk Project to the Willow Ridge, Lake Seward, and Davenport drainage projects within the General Capital Improvement Funds. He recommended approval.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Bill Braswell
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Michael Scott
<b>AYE:</b>	Troutman, Wilson, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott

G.2. Approve Amendment Five to the Master Purchase Agreement with Motorola Solutions, Inc. (total cost of 3 years \$4,707,440.00 - Yr 1 \$1,402,797.00, Yr 2 \$1,563,414.00 and Yr 3 \$1,741,229.00)

**Minutes:** County Manager Bill Beasley discussed Amendment 5 to the master purchase agreement with Motorola Solutions, Inc. He reviewed the invoicing that will occur over three years. He recommended approval.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Becky Troutman
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Bill Braswell
<b>AYE:</b>	Troutman, Wilson, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott

## **H. COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1 (BECKY TROUTMAN)**

H.1. Commissioner Troutman Comments.

**Minutes:** Commissioner Troutman had no comments at this time.

**I. COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 3 (BILL BRASWELL)**

I.1. Commissioner Braswell Comments.

**Minutes:** Commissioner Braswell had no comments at this time.

**J. COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 4 (MARTHA SANTIAGO)**

J.1. Commissioner Santiago Comments.

**Minutes:** Commissioner Santiago said she wants to brag on the Communications Department. She said as Commissioners they are always talking about getting information out there as fast as we can. She said Communications Director Amber Smith and her team have done an outstanding job in putting out information on Facebook, Instagram and other places. She discussed a recent skit presented by them concerning property values. She discussed the positive comments that she read under the video. She congratulated the team for finally getting the information out to the community. She said kudos to the Communications team.

**K. COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 5 (MICHAEL SCOTT)**

K.1. Commissioner Scott Comments.

**Minutes:** Commissioner Scott had no comments at this time.

**L. COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 2 (RICK WILSON, CHAIR)**

L.1. Reappoint Jacquelyn Codd as a member of the Polk County Sidewalk Advisory Committee, for the three-year term, October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2028.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Bill Braswell
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Martha Santiago
<b>AYE:</b>	Troutman, Wilson, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott

L.2. Chair Wilson Comments.

**Minutes:** Chair Wilson had no comments at this time.

**N. EXPEDITED HEARINGS PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION NO. 2022-089**

**Minutes:** County Attorney Randy Mink reminded the audience of the procedures for expedited hearings and public hearings. He swore in those that plan to speak.

N.1. Public Hearing (LDCPAL-2025-1 GPK Holly Hill Groves 2 CPA Amendment) (Transmittal Hearing) to consider the adoption of a Large-Scale Comprehensive Plan Amendment to change the Future Land Use designation on 14.6 acres from Employment Center - X (ECX) to Residential-High X (RHX). (No Fiscal

Impact).

**Minutes:** Land Development Director Ben Ziskal discussed LDCPAL-2025-1 GPK Holly Hill Groves 2 CPA amendment to consider the proposed future land use change. He reviewed the land uses surrounding the subject site. He said staff and the Planning Commission recommend approval.

Upon question, Mr. Ziskal clarified the three parcels that are subject to change.

Chair Wilson opened a public hearing; no one spoke.

Upon question, Mr. Ziskal discussed the email that was received in opposition to this change. He confirmed there is a red light at the north end of Holly Hill Road.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Bill Braswell
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Becky Troutman
<b>AYE:</b>	Troutman, Wilson, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott

## O. PUBLIC HEARINGS

O.1. Public Hearing to consider adoption of an ordinance amending Ordinance 25-036 Master Inwood Street Lighting MSBU Ordinance to replace boundary description found in "Exhibit A."

**Minutes:** County Attorney Randy Mink discussed the adoption of an ordinance amending Ordinance 2025-036 Master Inwood Street Lighting MSBU Ordinance to replace a boundary description found in "Exhibit A." He said it is being amended to correct an error in the legal description. He recommended approval.

Chair Wilson opened a public hearing; no one spoke.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ADOPTED</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Bill Braswell
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Bill Braswell
<b>AYE:</b>	Troutman, Wilson, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott

O.2. Public Hearing to consider adoption of a Resolution allowing for the Installation of Seven Traffic Calming Devices (Speed Humps) on Catherine Drive, Near Lakeland. (estimated \$35,000.00 one-time expense)

**Minutes:** Roads and Drainage Traffic Manager Amy Gregory discussed the installation of seven traffic calming devices on Catherine Drive, near Lakeland. She said upon receiving the request staff collected speed and volume data and reviewed the crash history. She said this request meets the Board's traffic calming policy criteria. She said mailers were distributed and they received 80% favorable response votes. She recommended approval.

Commissioner Troutman thanked Ms. Gregory for getting this done. She discussed her correspondence with the resident who lives in this area and said they have had to

replace their mailbox and basketball hoop multiple times.

Chair Wilson opened a public hearing.

Frank Decker said he is here to support this resolution. He discussed the issues with speeding on this road. He said there was a police chase to stop a car on this road with seven law enforcement officers involved.

Chair Wilson closed the public hearing.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ADOPTED</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Martha Santiago
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Michael Scott
<b>AYE:</b>	Troutman, Wilson, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott

O.3. Public Hearing to consider adoption of a Resolution allowing for the Installation of Five Traffic Calming Devices (Speed Humps) on Lakeland Highlands Road, Near Lakeland (estimated \$25,000.00 one-time expense)

**Minutes:** Roads and Drainage Traffic Manager Amy Gregory discussed the installation of five traffic calming devices on Lakeland Highlands Road, in Lakeland. She said upon receiving the request staff collected speed and volume data and reviewed the crash history. She said this request meets the Board's traffic calming policy criteria. She said mailers were distributed and they received the required 50% response votes. She recommended approval.

Chair Wilson opened a public hearing; no one spoke.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ADOPTED</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Becky Troutman
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Bill Braswell
<b>AYE:</b>	Troutman, Wilson, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott

O.4. Public Hearing to consider adoption of a Resolution allowing for the Installation of Two Traffic Calming Devices (Speed Humps) on Stephenson Avenue, Near Babson Park (estimated \$10,000.00 one-time expense)

**Minutes:** Roads and Drainage Traffic Manager Amy Gregory discussed the installation of two traffic calming devices on Stephenson Avenue, in Babson Park. She said upon receiving the request staff collected speed and volume data and reviewed the crash history. She said this request meets the Board's traffic calming policy criteria. She said mailers were distributed and they received 80% favorable response votes and non-votes. She recommended approval.

Chair Wilson opened a public hearing; no one spoke.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ADOPTED</b>
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<b>MOVER:</b>	Bill Braswell
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Becky Troutman
<b>AYE:</b>	Troutman, Wilson, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott

O.5. Public Hearing to consider adoption of a Resolution allowing for the Installation of Three Traffic Calming Devices (Speed Humps) on Tangelo Street, Near Highland Park Manor. (estimated \$15,000.00 one-time expense)

**Minutes:** Roads and Drainage Traffic Manager Amy Gregory discussed the installation of three traffic calming devices on Tangelo Street, near Highland Park Manor. She said upon receiving the request staff collected speed and volume data and reviewed the crash history. She said this request meets all of the Board's traffic calming policy criteria. She said mailers were distributed and they received the required 50% favorable response votes and non votes per the Board's policy. She recommended approval.

Chair Wilson opened a public hearing.

Upon question, Ms. Gregory said she does not have a definitive date at this point when the speed humps will be installed.

Cassandra Richards said she is so excited about the speed humps. She discussed the issues with speeding in this area. She said there are children in this neighborhood and said there are school buses that use this road also. She said that she prays that they get this project done quickly.

Lily Faircloth said the speed humps are needed. She discussed the speeding in this area. She said they are not stopping at the stop sign or the bus stops. She discussed the school buses on this street.

Chair Wilson said he hopes Mr. Jarvis will be able to get this project done quickly.

Michael Faircloth discussed the speeding on this road. He said it is going to take someone getting killed on this road. He said it is sad how people drive with children on the road. He said they need the speed humps.

Chair Wilson closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Scott discussed the traffic flow and said commuters may be avoiding the speed humps and using the side streets. He said the county may need to be aware of this for future needs.

Ms. Gregory said they will do an after study to make sure they know how traffic is shifting.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ADOPTED</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Becky Troutman
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Bill Braswell
<b>AYE:</b>	Troutman, Wilson, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott

**P. REQUEST FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC/AUDIENCE AND OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD**

P.1. G. Robert Weedon, DVM, MPH to continue discussion regarding amending the Polk County Animal Ordinance.

**Minutes:** Dr. Robert Weedon said here we are again. He discussed the last Board meetings he attended and the need for a feral cat ordinance. He said surrounding counties fare much better than Polk County when it comes to live outcome rates. He said there is a lack of support from the county for the humane and effective management of feral and free roaming cats. He said the Board never has questions, discussions, comments, and especially no action. He said he disagrees that this is Grady's problem; he said the Board of County Commissioners is the governing body for the county and they can adopt ordinances necessary to carry out both county and municipal powers and purposes. He discussed the offer made by Best Friends Animal Society in July 2023, and an offer by a local philanthropist to build a \$20 million state-of-the-art shelter in the county; he said both offers were rejected. He discussed a \$250,000 fund by the county in support of low-cost sterilization that was discussed with Commissioner Lindsey and he supported it. He said it never became a reality. He said Grady Judd vetoed both ideas. He asked the Board if they are too afraid of Sheriff Judd to exercise good judgment. He said he respects Sheriff Judd as a law enforcement officer but not as a leader of Polk County Animal Control. He said Sheriff Judd is an avid bird photographer and believes that cats should be killed because they prey on birds. He said by supporting a Trap Neuter Vaccinate Release Program (TNVR) there will be less cats to prey on birds. He said it is time for a change and time to join the 21st Century. He asked why there is no action.

P.2. Comments.

**Minutes:** Eve Salimbene said she is the founder of Street Cat Colony. She said she works with colonies of cats that are in Polk County. She said they are asking for a low cost spay and neuter voucher program. She said they need an ordinance for this. She discussed her meeting with Commissioner Lindsey concerning this program and she said they were told this would be approved but it never was. She said the people want this program and the people who elected them want this program. She said they are working on trapping 59 colonies and there are currently 201 colonies on the list still waiting for help. She said there is a huge need for low cost help. She said it costs them \$50 per cat at a minimum. She discussed the number of euthanasias that happen in the county. She said if they would take care of the feral cats by fixing them and returning them to where they came from Polk County could be a no kill county.

Sharon Garret discussed the businesses and loud music that goes on late at night on her road. She said there is an issue with finding the owner. She discussed the loud bass that plays and said they have no concern for their neighbors; she said it is ridiculous. She said she has had meetings with Code Enforcement Director Autumn Fenton but that is a slow process. She discussed the cars that line both sides of the street. She said they need to provide parking for customers. She suggested having the Sheriff deputies come out and give tickets to everyone for illegal parking. She asked what the Board is going to do about this. She said there is a noise ordinance in place.

County Attorney Randy Mink said the Board authorized an injunction against this business. He said they have gone back before the judge to find them in contempt. He said they are pursuing all legal actions through the courts. He said it does not move as quickly as some would like. He said they have also pursued code enforcement cases against the business. He said they were fined \$15,000. He said they are taking all legal steps to bring them into compliance. He said there are certain time restraints they have to go through before they collect fines through the court system. He said they are taking every legal action that they can.

Patricia Jacques said she is very concerned about the current practices at Polk County Animal Control. She said Animal Control officers are picking up cats and are euthanizing them after they have already been spayed and neutered. She discussed how other counties handle TNVR programs and study outcomes. She said this would save money for the county. She asked the county to fund a TNVR program and create an oversight committee. She said Polk County is facing a animal welfare crisis.

Donna Malone said she is a cat colony caregiver. She discussed the Street Cat Project. She said without these programs and funding there will be a large stray cat population in the county. She said they need the county's help.

Annette Wrebleski said she is here to enlighten them on the plight of pot belly pigs. She said she owns Laughing Pig Sanctuary. She said pot belly pigs are considered pets until they are abandoned and then they are considered livestock. She said they are then taken to auction and sold. She said this is a statewide problem. She said they need to be deemed an exotic pet so they will not be sold at auction. She said there are 30 rescuers in the state. She said she wants to nip this in the bud before there is a problem.

Ailigh Vanderbush discussed the benefits of a TNVR program. She discussed the surrounding counties self reporting live release rates. She said it is a state law that they have to self-report. She said Polk County has a 44% live release rate, which is one of the lowest rates. She said this is a pride issue for her. She said she has worked all over the country and the 44% live release rate should embarrass the Board.

Debbie Hicks said she is here regarding the current animal control facility. She said she has volunteered there and knows that it does not work. She discussed the increase of population in the county. She said they need a new facility. She said the Sheriff cannot operate properly when they do not have a working facility. She discussed having an advisory committee regarding the welfare of animals. She said this is a county problem and this needs to be dealt with. She asked the Board to do the right thing.

Gerry Dempsey said he is very proud of the Polk County Sheriff's office and said he worked for Animal Control for 2 years. He said his issue is the extreme heat at the facility. He said he was treated for while working there due to the heat. He discussed the overhead fans and said they do not help. He said the heat is overwhelming for the animals and something needs to be done about this. He said he is proud of the work the deputies do but the animals do not deserve this. He suggested the Board visit the facility. He said the kennels are very old and need to be replaced.



Kay Bourque said animal welfare is in crisis. She said there are paradigms in this county and they need to change the way they think. She said they will not adopt or kill their way out of this problem. She said they need a new way of thinking. She read a story concerning having a paradigm shift. She said people are sharing their pain with the Board and they need to change.

Jennifer Castro said she is here in support of a TNVR program. She discussed the heat issues at the kennels. She discussed how Hillsborough County handled the overheating issues with fostering pets; she said this would also be beneficial in Polk County. She discussed the need for a TNVR program and low cost options for the community for spaying and neutering. She discussed controlling cat colonies.

James Abercrombie discussed issues he is having with obtaining public records, fences, and jobs being created through the county. He said he cannot find public records on this. He discussed the fence that was to be installed at Fountain Park. He said he has been here to complain about the county manager and the county attorney. He said they should be taking care of these problems and they should hear him out. He said he has heard from no one. He said the only conclusion he can come to concerning the funds for the fence is that someone is taking the money and pocketing it. He said the Board should be investigating this. He said that was federal grant money. He said he has been coming here for three months and has heard nothing and received no public records. He discussed the park on Daughtery Road. He said he has dealt with other county managers in the past and said he never had this problem. He said the community is not involved in anything. He said they have no say in anything. He discussed the drainage problem on Kathleen Road. He said they need to change their attitudes.

Chair Wilson discussed the public records that Mr. Abercrombie has received and the timeline. He said one set of public records was not received because Mr. Abercrombie was on vacation and did not come and pick it up within the required 10 days. Discussion followed.

Dianne Schaffer discussed the counties that have adopted an TNVR program and the benefits. She said Polk County is the only county in the state of Florida that does not have a program like this. She said the facility is overcrowded. She said they are not protecting the animals in the county. She said killing animals and closing a blind eye is not love. She asked how many cats need to suffer before something gets done. She asked that they do the right thing.

Jhoanna Mukai Allende said she is a supporter of animal rescue. She said it is time that the county makes a change. She discussed the data on the benefits of having a spray and neuter program. She said this will help people take care of their animals. She asked them to open their hearts and she read a quote from Ghandi. She said she is passionate about this. She said they will not stop until something is done.

Stephanie Widner discussed the approval of funds for traffic calming devices. She discussed the TNVR program and the savings that this could have for the county. She discussed the cost for spay and neutering. She said Sheriff Judd is popular on crime.

She said they have been coming here for months and they need change.

Meeting adjourned at 10:21 a.m.