



Polk County Board of County Commissioners

Meeting Minutes - Draft

June 17, 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

Present:	Commissioner Becky Troutman Commissioner Rick Wilson Commissioner Bill Braswell Commissioner Martha Santiago Commissioner Michael Scott
-----------------	---

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (RICK WILSON, CHAIR)

A. PRESENTATIONS and RECOGNITIONS

A.1. Employee Recognition

Minutes: The Board recognized Reyna Kassman with Facilities, Carmen Nieves with Building, Carl Gilileo, III with Fire Rescue and Larry Clayton with Information Technology for their years of service to the county.

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

B.1. Dartha Shular, National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc. President, to propose a county ordinance establishing a comprehensive print and digital media public awareness campaign to identify, prevent, and combat human trafficking in Polk County.

Minutes: Dr. Sally Stone, National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc., addressed the Board concerning human trafficking. She asked that the county initiate a county ordinance with print and digital campaigns. She said Florida ranks #3 in the nation for reported human trafficking cases. She said the victims are being recruited from schools, hotels, and public transit spots. She said there needs to be more awareness because it saves lives. She said she understands the planning that will need to be taken to implement this. She said this is not just an idea, but they are trying to build a coalition.

Upon question, Dr. Stone discussed the statewide coalition that is held each year and said there is a website. She said she will provide that information to the Commissioners.

B.2. Comments.

Minutes: There were no additional comments at this time.

C. APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

C.1. Approve Consent Agenda.

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Martha Santiago
SECONDER:	Bill Braswell
AYE:	Troutman, Wilson, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott

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

D.1. Disbursements.

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Bill Braswell
SECONDER:	Martha Santiago
AYE:	Troutman, Wilson, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott

D.2. Minutes of Regular Board meeting held on June 3, 2025.

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Bill Braswell
SECONDER:	Becky Troutman
AYE:	Troutman, Wilson, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott

G. COUNTY MANAGER (BILL BEASLEY)

G.1. Approve cooperative agreement with Carahsoft Technology Corp. for case management and contract management software modules and implementation services. (\$3,228,188.60 total 5-year expense)

Minutes: County Manager Bill Beasley discussed the cooperative agreement with Carahsoft Technology Corp., for case management and contract management software modules and implementation services. He recommended approval.

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Bill Braswell
SECONDER:	Martha Santiago
AYE:	Troutman, Wilson, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott

G.2. Approve agreement with The Lunz Group, LLC, for architectural & engineering services for the Sheriff's Office - Polk County Joint-Use Warehouse & Facilities Management Administration Building. (\$1,117,825.00 one-time expense)

Minutes: County Manager Bill Beasley discussed the agreement with The Lunz Group, LLC, for architectural and engineering services for the Sheriff's Office - Polk County Joint-Use Warehouse and Facilities Management Administration Building. He recommended approval.

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Becky Troutman
SECONDER:	Bill Braswell
AYE:	Troutman, Wilson, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott

G.3. Approve agreement with The Lunz Group, LLC, for architectural & engineering services for a new roadway maintenance facility. (\$556,277.00 one-time expense)

Minutes: County Manager Bill Beasley discussed the agreement with The Lunz Group, LLC, for architectural and engineering services for a new roadway maintenance facility on Sheffield Road. He recommended approval.

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Becky Troutman
SECONDER:	Bill Braswell
AYE:	Troutman, Wilson, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott

G.4. Approve cooperative agreement and lease agreements with Mobile Modular Management Corporation for relocatable building and storage solutions with related services. (\$997,923.00 one-time expense)

Minutes: County Manager Bill Beasley discussed the cooperative agreement and lease agreements with Mobile Modular Management Corporation, for relocatable building and storage solutions with related services for various Polk County Utilities field operations. He recommended approval.

Upon question, Utilities Director Tamara Richardson said the buildings for the Central office are available now and the other modules will be available in August. She said staff has already been decentralized. She said this will house management and support services. She said they want the temporary buildings to be there for a short amount of time. She said all operators can see any facility from any point, as long as

they have the proper credentials. She said the Central facility does have SCADA for all of the lift stations and someone is always there for monitoring. She said on-call employees can view these systems from their home.

Commissioner Scott said this aids in adding another layer of customer service which is great.

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Bill Braswell
SECONDER:	Becky Troutman
AYE:	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: Upon question, County Manager Bill Beasley said there has been no changes made to the TDC.

Upon question, County Attorney Randy Mink said Senate Bill 180 has not been sent to the Governor. He said once it has been they will make the Commissioners aware.

Upon question, Mr. Mink confirmed the Governor does not have to sign it for the bill to become law. He discussed the approval timeline. He said they will be continuing 3 public hearing items today until they see what is going to happen.

J. COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 4 (MARTHA SANTIAGO)

J.1. Commissioner Santiago Comments.

Minutes: Commissioner Santiago had no comments at this time.

K. COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 5 (MICHAEL SCOTT)

K.1. Commissioner Scott Comments.

Minutes: Commissioner Scott discussed the signs that are being constructed in the right-of-way promoting home developments and other large projects. He said this is a safety issue and there are ordinances in place to prohibit signs in the right-of-way. He asked those that are erecting these signs to please to stop. He said Polk County Beautiful works hard to keep the county looking nice. He showed slides and discussed the Myrtlebrook development in north Lakeland. He said this project has had significant problems since its inception. He said he visited this site yesterday; he discussed the off-site pumping that is happening. He said SWFWMD is involved. He said in the

community if you see something say something. He said this is an issue that should have not gone on as long as it has; he showed pictures of off-site pumping, erosion and reviewed the SWFWMD inspection checklists. He said the SWFWMD inspector has consistently checked there are no issues. He said as a county we are here to protect the residents and the environment. He said if the county needs to engage with SWFWMD to get corrected action they will do that. He said if you are a resident within this county and you see something that is not right please do not be afraid to speak up. He said stuff like this should not have been going on for a year without something happening.

L. COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 2 (RICK WILSON, CHAIR)

L.1. 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 of expedited public hearings and public hearings. He swore in those that plan to speak.

N.1. Public Hearing (LDCPAS-2025-3 Lake Gibson Estates CPA) (Adoption Hearing) to consider the adoption of an applicant-initiated Small-Scale Comprehensive Plan Map Amendment to change the Future Land Use (FLU) designation from Residential Low (RL-3) to Residential Medium (RM) on a 2.52 +/- acres. (No Fiscal Impact)

Minutes: Land Development Director Ben Ziskal showed slides and discussed the proposed land use change. He said staff and the Planning Commission recommend approval.

Upon question, Mr. Ziskal said the allowable height of RL-3 and RM is 50 feet. He said RL-3 with a PD will allow for 5 units per acre. He said RM without a PD allows for 7 units per acre. He said if they apply for and are approved for a PD it would allow for 10 units per acre. He showed slides of the street view on Daughtery Road.

Commissioner Scott discussed the surrounding houses and the single-story assisted living facility. He said everything is single-family and not multi-story in this area and consistent with RL-3. He said this is not compatible. He said he does not see how the Planning Commission approved this 7/0.

Upon question, Mr. Ziskal said there has been no construction started. He said their understanding is it will be single-story but they have not received the building permits.

Commissioner Scott discussed his concerns of compatibility if it is changed to RM.

Upon question, Mr. Ziskal said if it is changed today to RM the allowable units will go from 5 units per acre to 7 units per acre. He said the height is 50 feet for both RL-3 and RM.

Commissioner Troutman discussed the duplexes that are abutting this property.

Mr. Ziskal said all the surrounding areas are RL-3.

Commissioner Scott said he does not have an issue with duplexes being in RL-3, but if it goes to RM it allows for higher density than the surrounding areas.

Commissioner Braswell said it does seem odd to have an island of higher density in the middle of RL-3. He said he would agree with Commissioner Scott.

Chair Wilson opened a public hearing; no one spoke.

RESULT:	DENIED
MOVER:	Michael Scott
SECONDER:	Bill Braswell
AYE:	Wilson, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott
NAY:	Troutman

N.2. Public Hearing (LDCPAS-2025-5 Lake Hancock Road CPA) (Adoption Hearing) to consider the adoption of an applicant-initiated Small-Scale Comprehensive Plan Map Amendment to change the Future Land Use (FLU) designation from Business Park Center (BPC-2X) to Residential Low (RL-1X) in the US 98 Selected Area Plan on a 2.28 +/- acre parcel near the Bartow city limits. (No Fiscal Impact)

Minutes: Land Development Director Ben Ziskal showed slides and discussed the proposed future land use change. He said staff and the Planning Commission recommend approval.

Chair Wilson opened a public hearing; no one spoke.

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Bill Braswell
SECONDER:	Martha Santiago
AYE:	Troutman, Wilson, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott

N.3. Public Hearing to consider the adoption of LDCT-2025-10, a County-initiated to amend Chapter 2, Section 207, Temporary Uses, subsection 207.L, Road Construction Material/Equipment, 207.M, Temporary Storage of Vegetative Debris Collected from Major Storms. (First Reading)

Minutes: Land Development Director Ben Ziskal showed slides and discussed the proposed ordinance related to temporary vegetative debris following major storms. He said this has been coordinated with Solid Waste staff. He said staff and the Planning Commission recommend adoption. He said this is a first reading and no action is required today.

Chair Wilson opened a public hearing; no one spoke.

N.4. Public Hearing to consider the adoption of LDCT-2025-4, a County-initiated request to consider the adoption of an LDC Text amendment to Chapter 9

Development Review Procedures, Section 960(A), Types of Public Notice, by removing the current text of a 500-foot distance in which mail notices are to be sent to area property owners and replacing it with 1,000 feet. (Adoption Hearing)
(Continued to July 15, 2025)

Minutes: Land Development Director Ben Ziskal said that SB 180 is still pending. He said due to this they are requesting that items N.4 LDCT-2025-4, N.5 LDCT-2025-03 and N.6 LDCT-2025-5 all be continued to July 15, 2025.

RESULT:	CONTINUED
MOVER:	Bill Braswell
SECONDER:	Michael Scott
AYE:	Troutman, Wilson, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott

N.5. Public Hearing to consider the adoption of LDCT-2025-3, a County-initiated request to consider the adoption of an LDC Text amendment to multiple sections, to address stressed drainage basins, and improve stormwater management standards. (Adoption Hearing) (Continued to July 15, 2025)

Minutes: This item was continued to July 15, 2025.

N.6. Public Hearing (LDCT-2025-5 Coops & Roosters LDC Text Amendment) (Adoption Hearing) to reduce the setbacks for structures intended for the feeding and sheltering of livestock and fowl from 50 to 10 feet. Prohibiting roosters and other disruptive fowl on properties less than one-half acre. (No Fiscal Impact) (Continued to July 15, 2025).

Minutes: This item was continued to July 15, 2025.

O. PUBLIC HEARINGS

O.1. Public Hearing to consider adoption of a resolution to vacate a portion of platted, unopened, and unmaintained right-of-way as shown on the map of Goldenbough Association's Plat of Homesites, Lake Wales, Florida. Also accept a Quit Claim Deed for additional right-of-way for Goldenbough Road . (No fiscal impact)

Minutes: Scott Lowery, Real Estate Services, showed slides and discussed the proposed vacation of a portion of platted, unopened, and unmaintained right-of-way as shown on the map of Goldenbough Association's Plat of Homesites, Lake Wales, FL. He said there have been no objections to the proposed vacation. He said staff recommends the Board waive the petition fee and adopt the resolution .

Chair Wilson opened a public hearing; no one spoke.

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Michael Scott
SECONDER:	Martha Santiago
AYE:	Troutman, Wilson, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott

O.2. Public hearing to consider adoption of an Assessment Resolution setting the rate of collection and approval of the Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Roll for the

2025 Local Provider Participation Fund special assessment, and authorizing the County Manager to execute Letters of Agreement with the State of Florida Agency for Health Care Administration. (no fiscal impact)

Minutes: County Attorney Randy Mink discussed the Assessment Resolution setting the rate of collection and approval of the non-ad valorem assessment roll for the 2025 Local Provider Participation Fund special assessment and authorize the County Manager to execute Letters of Agreement with the State of Florida Agency for Health Care Administration. He said this is recommended for approval.

Danielle Drummond, Lakeland Regional Health, said she is in favor of this resolution. She said they appreciate the county's collaboration and support. She said this allows them to provide necessary health care.

Upon question, Ms. Drummond said this is the 3rd year that they have participated in this program. She discussed the benefits to citizens and the county from this funding.

Commissioner Santiago said she is always hearing that the county does not have enough doctors, so she is glad that this will help with that issue.

Mr. Mink said the estimate that will be coming back to the county for FY 24/25 is approximately \$75 million.

Upon question, Ms. Drummond said Orlando Health will be part of the program.

Chair Wilson opened a public hearing; no one spoke.

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Martha Santiago
SECONDER:	Michael Scott
AYE:	Troutman, Wilson, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Minutes: Chair Wilson adjourned the meeting at 9:55 a.m.