



Polk County Board of County Commissioners

Meeting Minutes - Final

July 01, 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.

Rollcall

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

CALL TO ORDER - 9:00 a.m. (MARTHA SANTIAGO, VICE-CHAIR)

INVOCATION

Murphy Hanley, Polk County Fire Rescue Chaplain

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (MARTHA SANTIAGO, VICE-CHAIR)

A. PRESENTATIONS and RECOGNITIONS

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS CONCERNING AGENDA ITEMS

B.1. Comments.

Minutes: County Attorney Randy Mink reviewed Resolution No. 25-064 regarding the Board's adopted policy for the opportunities for members of the public to be heard.

There was no one from the public wishing to speak.

C. APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

C.1. Approve Consent Agenda.

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| RESULT: | APPROVED |
| MOVER: | Bill Braswell |
| SECONDER: | Michael Scott |
| AYE: | Troutman, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott |
| Absent: | Wilson |

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

D.1. Disbursements.

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

D.2. Minutes of Regular Board meeting held on June 17, 2025.

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| RESULT: | APPROVED |
| MOVER: | Bill Braswell |
| SECONDER: | Michael Scott |
| AYE: | Troutman, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott |
| Absent: | Wilson |

G. COUNTY MANAGER (BILL BEASLEY)

G.1. North Ridge Trail Infrastructure Agreement (Deen Still Road to Laurel Estates).
Improvement costs not to exceed \$4,181,255.00. (Cash Reimbursement)

Minutes: County Manager Bill Beasley discussed the North Ridge Trail Infrastructure Agreement for Deen Still Road to Laurel Estates. He recommended approval.

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

G.2. Approve Utilities request to purchase Motorola radios and related essential services under Agreement #15-09 with Motorola Solutions for Utilities emergency operations communications (\$269,754.56 one-time expense)

Minutes: County Manager Bill Beasley discussed the request to purchase Motorola radios and related essential services under Agreement #15-09 with Motorola Solutions for Utilities emergency operations communications. He recommended approval.

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

H. COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1 (BECKY TROUTMAN)

H.1. Commissioner Troutman Comments.

Minutes: Commissioner Troutman had no comments.

I. COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 3 (BILL BRASWELL)

I.1. Commissioner Braswell Comments.

Minutes: Commissioner Braswell had no comments.

K. COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 5 (MICHAEL SCOTT)

K.1. Appoint Jenna Sutton to replace Ronnie Hedrick on the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee.

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| RESULT: | APPROVED |
| MOVER: | Michael Scott |
| SECONDER: | Bill Braswell |
| AYE: | Troutman, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott |
| Absent: | Wilson |

K.2. Commissioner Scott Comments.

Minutes: Commissioner Scott had no comments.

M. LAY BOARD APPOINTMENTS

M. LAY BOARD APPOINTMENTS

M.1. Appoint Gary L. Phillips to the Tohopekaliga Water Authority (TWA) Board of Supervisors for the remainder of a vacated term and a new 3-year term ending September 30, 2028.

Minutes: Commissioner Troutman commended Gary Phillips for stepping forward because the gentleman in that position passed away. She said they are thankful they were able to find somebody within the community to serve.

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| RESULT: | APPROVED |
| MOVER: | Michael Scott |
| SECONDER: | Bill Braswell |
| AYE: | Troutman, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott |
| Absent: | Wilson |

L. COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 2 (RICK WILSON, CHAIR)

L.1. Chair Wilson Comments.

Minutes: Chair Wilson was not present.

J. COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 4 (MARTHA SANTIAGO)

J.1. Commissioner Santiago Comments.

Minutes: Commissioner Santiago wished everyone a Happy Fourth of July and said to be safe during the holiday.

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 and swore in those who plan to speak.

N.1. Public Hearing (LDCPAL-2024-14 Poinciana Subdivision CPA Amendment) (Adoption Hearing) to consider the adoption of a Large-Scale Comprehensive Plan Amendment to change the Future Land Use designation on 160 acres from Agricultural/Residential-Rural (A/RR) to Residential-Low (RL) and Rural Development Area (RDA) to Utility Enclave Area (UEA). (No Fiscal Impact).

Minutes: Land Development Director Ben Ziskal reviewed the proposed land use amendment. He said that the Planning Commission recommended approval. He said the Department of Commerce had no comments. He stated that staff recommends approval.

The Vice Chair opened a public hearing; no one spoke.

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

N.2. Public Hearing (LDCT-2025-10 Temporary Storage of Storm Debris) (Adoption Hearing) to consider a County-initiated amendment to Land Development Code Chapter 2, Section 207, Temporary Uses, subsection 207.L, Road Construction Material/Equipment, 207.M, Temporary Storage of Vegetative Debris Collected from Major Storms.

Minutes: Land Development Director Ben Ziskal reviewed the proposed text amendment regarding temporary storage of storm debris. He said that the Planning Commission and staff recommends approval.

The Vice Chair opened a public hearing; no one spoke.

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| RESULT: | APPROVED |
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| MOVER: | Bill Braswell |
| SECONDER: | Michael Scott |
| AYE: | Troutman, Braswell, Santiago, and Scott |
| Absent: | Wilson |

O. PUBLIC HEARINGS

O.1. Consider adopting an ordinance creating the Master Inwood Street Lighting Municipal Service Benefit Unit ("MSBU") and adopt the Tentative Rate Resolution for the 2025-26 Master Inwood Street Lighting MSBU. (No fiscal impact)

Minutes: County Attorney Randy Mink discussed the ordinance creating the Master Inwood Street Lighting Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU) and the Tentative Rate Resolution for the 2025-26 Master Inwood Street Lighting MSBU. He recommended approval. He said there are three different rates for each district. He reviewed the rates for each district.

County Manager Bill Beasley said that we had community meetings and this is what they asked them to do. He said it is a good example of us listening to the public.

Mr. Mink said it is not one rate yet but we are getting there. He said it is a couple hundred street lights.

The Vice Chair opened a public hearing; no one spoke.

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

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

P.1. Comments.

Minutes: Wallace Lowery said he is here to talk about his house. He said he had repaired his house and he is getting hindrance and he does not understand why. He said he wants to fix his house. Staff will help facilitate what he is trying to accomplish.

Debbie Hicks said she is here in regards to Animal Control. She said she was at the June 3rd meeting and this Board thinks the Sheriff is in control of Animal Control. She discussed volunteering and said the facility is owned by the county and the Sheriff does the daily operations. She said you cannot expect the Sheriff to do what he is expected to when the building is from another era. She said the building she worked in was built in 1988 and said the drainage is terrible and it is infested. She said they have passed the buck on this. She said there is so much room for improvement. She said the public wants to help.

James Abercrombie said he continues to talk about public records. He said he has asked about the fence on Hunt Fountain Park and he still gets no public records. He asked why he cannot get public records. He said it is a cover up and two miles of fencing was taken down and he does not know where it is. He asked what happened to the money. He said \$9 million was given to a developer to move here. He said they are supposed to be watching us. He said they make all their decisions at the Agenda Review meetings and they are doing it without the public's knowledge.

Mary Hodges discussed her property and said they have never had flooding. She said that the ditches are not maintained and they are flooding. She showed pictures of flooding and said the pipe under the street has been blocked. She said she is terrified it will flood again and she said she lost everything in her home.

Commissioner Scott said this area has several lots that have privately maintained ditches. He said if there are culverts that are blocked we will clear those. He said there are several homeowners who have not maintained those. He said it only takes one blockage to make the whole system unhappy. He said if it is the county's side we can address that. He said to get with the neighbors on the privately maintained side and have a community clean-up day. He said to follow up with him and he will gladly come out.

Ms. Hodges discussed a neighbor not allowing anyone to dig the ditches.

Jessica Alvarado said those pictures were hers. She said when it floods it affects their plumbing. She said it causes problems. She said there are ditches that look like they are blocked. She said she has been there 8 years and this started last summer. She asked for help.

Ms. Hodges and Ms. Alvarado will follow up with Land Development Director John Bohde and Roads and Drainage Director Jay Jarvis.

Commissioner Scott said he will drive by today and report to staff what he sees.

Meeting adjourned at 9:37 a.m.