Polk County Board of County Commissioners

Meeting Minutes - Draft

October 21, 2025 Regular BoCC meeting

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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)

A. PRESENTATIONS and RECOGNITIONS

A.1. Employee Recognition

Minutes: The Board recognized Rodolfo Socorro with Fire Rescue, David Seeright, Jr. with Fire Rescue, Michele Sims with Procurement, Charles Blocker with Roads and Drainage, and Danny Tucker with Roads and Drainage for their years of service with the county.

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS CONCERNING AGENDA ITEMS

B.1. Comments.

Minutes: David Brown said he is in support of the round-a-bout on North Galloway Road. He thanked the Board for cleaning out the ditch to help with drainage. He said he is here to thank the Board.

Shannon Turbeville said he is in support of the round-a-bout. He said his concerns were addressed for stormwater. He said that he reached out to Commissioners Troutman and Braswell with his stormwater concerns and he said they did what they were elected to do. He said they were accessible, sensitive to his concerns, and solution oriented. He said he cannot think of better representation from elected officials. He thanked the county manager and said that Hurricane Milton gave him a new respect for the importance of adequate and maintained stormwater infrastructure. He said he is appreciative of the efforts from Deputy County Manager John Bohde and the department directors that addressed this.

Commissioner Braswell said he went out to Mr. Turbeville's house and looking at it you would not think it would flood. He said that it flooded a foot and a half in the house, it was gone before the sun came up and destroyed the inside of his house. He said they are glad they helped him and there are so many places like that in the county.

C. APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

C.1. Approve Consent Agenda.

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

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

D.2. Disbursements.

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

D.1. Minutes of Regular Board meeting held on October 7, 2025.

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

G. COUNTY MANAGER (BILL BEASLEY)

G.1. Approve Agreement for Sale and Purchase between Texas Aquatic Harvesting, Inc. and Polk County for the construction of a new wastewater treatment facility to service the East Regional service area. ($8,530,000 one-time expense)

Minutes: Deputy County Manager Ryan Taylor discussed the agreement for sale and purchase with Texas Aquatic Harvesting, Inc., for the construction of a new wastewater treatment facility to service the east regional service area. He recommended approval.

Upon question, Mr. Taylor said studies will start soon and the facility will be completed within two years.

Commissioner Scott said he wants to thank the staff. He said this property allows us to tie this together with conservation areas. He said this is a great purchase.

Chair Wilson said we have been lucky and it has been great tying this into conservation. He said that is a great program.

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

G.2. Approve and ratify the Letter of Agreement and IGT Provider Questionnaire from the State of Florida, Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) for the Public Emergency Medical Transportation Medicaid Managed Care Supplement Payment Program ($4,989,893.04 not-to-exceed, one-time expense)

Minutes: Deputy County Manager Ryan Taylor discussed the ratification of the Letter of Agreement and IGT Provider Questionnaire from the State of Florida, Agency for Health Care Administration for the Public Emergency Medical Transportation Medicaid Managed Care Supplement Payment Program. He recommended approval.

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

G.3. Approve construction contract with Ajax Paving Industries of Florida LLC for the roadway improvements for North Galloway Road at 10th Street, CIP Amendment and budget transfer. ($3,063,097.56 one-time expense - $1,063,098 one-time transfer)

Minutes: Deputy County Manager Ryan Taylor discussed the construction contract with Ajax Paving Industries of Florida LLC, for the roadway improvements for North Galloway Road at 10th Street, CIP Amendment and budget transfer. He recommended approval.

Roads and Drainage Director Jay Jarvis confirmed that there will be no road closures.

Commissioner Troutman thanked staff; she said everybody is doing this together and doing the right thing to get this started and completed.

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

G.4. Approve the Local Agency Program (LAP) Agreement between Polk County and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for the Kathleen Road Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study, associated resolutions, Budget resolutions to establish budget ($2,000,000.00 one-time unanticipated revenue).

Minutes: Deputy County Manager Ryan Taylor discussed the Local Agency Program Agreement between Polk County and the Florida Department of Transportation for the Kathleen Road project development and environment study, associated resolutions, and budget resolutions to establish budget. He recommended approval.

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

G.5. Approve agreement with Fleischman Garcia Maslowski (FG+M) for architectural & engineering services for the Polk County and City of Bartow Joint-Use Fire Rescue Station. ($799,930.85 onetime expense)

Minutes: Deputy County Manager Ryan Taylor discussed the agreement with Fleischman Garcia Maslowski (FG+M) for architectural & engineering services for the Polk County and City of Bartow joint-use fire rescue station. He recommended approval. He confirmed that the totals for the county will be 60% of the cost.

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

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. Appoint Angelic Sims as a member (Seat 6) of the Polk County Planning Commission for the three-year term, November 4, 2025 through November 3, 2028.

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

I.1. Commissioner Braswell Comments.

Minutes: Commissioner Braswell had no comments.

J. COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 4 (MARTHA SANTIAGO)

J.1. Commissioner Santiago Comments.

Minutes: Commissioner Santiago had no comments.

K. COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 5 (MICHAEL SCOTT)

K.1. Commissioner Scott Comments.

Minutes: Commissioner Scott said Highway 98 North construction is moving along. He said if there are any residents that have issues, concerns, or questions to reach out to their office.

L. COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 2 (RICK WILSON, CHAIR)

L.1. Chair Wilson Comments.

Minutes: Chair Wilson had no comments.

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 who plan to speak.

N.1. Public Hearing (LDCPAS-2025-15 Crescent 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 Residential Medium (RMX) to Employment Center (ECX) on 17.42 +/- acres in the North Ridge Selected Area Plan. (No Fiscal Impact)

Minutes: Land Development Director Ben Ziskal reviewed the proposed map amendment. He said that staff and the Planning Commission recommend approval.

The Chair opened a public hearing; no one spoke.

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

N.2. Public Hearing (LDCD-2025-3 Hamilton Road Sub-district) (Adoption Hearing) to consider the adoption of a sub-district change from Business Park Center (BPC-1) to Business Park Center-2 (BPC-2) on 38+/- acres within in the Urban Growth Area (UGA) and Rural Development Area (RDA). (No Fiscal Impact)

Minutes: Land Development Director Ben Ziskal reviewed the proposed sub-district change. He said that staff and the Planning Commission recommend approval.

Upon question, Mr. Ziskal said that BPC-1 is the default BPC and then a sub-district change is required to move to BPC-2.

The Chair opened a public hearing; no one spoke.

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

N.3. Public Hearing (LDCT-2025-13 Non-Phosphate Mining Exemption) (Adoption Hearing) to consider the adoption of an applicant-initiated ordinance amending the Land Development Code to allow an exemption for fill material excavation associated with approved phosphate mines and gypsum stacks. (No Fiscal Impact)

Minutes: Land Development Director Ben Ziskal reviewed the proposed text amendment. He said that staff and the Planning Commission recommend approval. He confirmed that Mosaic is the only one with a phosphate mining permit in the county.

The Chair opened a public hearing; no one spoke.

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

O. PUBLIC HEARINGS

O.1. Public Hearing to consider adoption of a Resolution to vacate and close deeded and maintained right-of-way for J Day Drive, Lakeland, Florida (No fiscal impact)

Minutes: Scott Lowery, Real Estate Services, reviewed the proposed request to vacate and close deeded and maintained right-of-way for J Day Drive. He said there are no objections to the proposed request.

Upon question, Mr. Lowery said the easement has been secured for the inter-connect facility. He said the easement is in place and will be recorded with these documents.

The Chair opened a public hearing; no one spoke.

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

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

P.1. Becky Bywater to discuss Polk County Animal Control

Minutes: Becky Bywater said she prepared a survey on animal wellness. She said out of ten counties only two of them has the sheriff with the responsibility of the animal control program. She discussed TNRV and said Polk offers no services. She said only one other county has no-tethering. She said Polk is the only one who does not offer air conditioning. She said the website falls short to functionality and transparency. She discussed donations per animal and asked how can they not be embarrassed about this.

P.2. Comments.

Minutes: Eve Salimbene said when we were here last time that Commissioner Scott said he spoke to other counties that said TNVR did not work. She said they would need to get 4,000 - 5,000 cats for it to work. She discussed Hillsborough County and discussed how the euthanasia results can be lowered. She said that she sent an email to the Sheriff on September 30th and she has not had a reply. She asked them to talk to them about a reply.

Kay Bourque said efforts to talk to the Sheriff has yielded no results. She said the work is snowballing with the increasing pet population. She discussed TNVR and an ordinance for backyard breeding. She said it will take time to make a difference. She said the ordinance changes have been successful in other counties. She said she hopes they will be a part of the solution.

Ailigh Vanderbush showed slides comparing Hillsborough and Polk County. She discussed the income, time frame for informational responses, salaries, and operational expenses.

Betty Jean Ammarell said she goes out to Animal Control to check on the cats and dogs. She said when she was out there yesterday she was told that the volunteer program is gone. She said the only people that they have working out there are young and they are inmates. She said ceiling fans and wired fences have been installed. She said the adoption fees are waived and she wishes that they would advertise that. She said that Pasco County has 300 volunteers and we need some improvements.

Kristin Ahlberg said she did not see fans and there is not air conditioning. She discussed the animals in the cages. She said she did a walk-through and was horrified with the conditions. She said they had a rally and said that Animal Control was shut down that day. She said that she was banned from the facility. She said that the animals are suffering. She said for them to join the TNVR groups.

James Abercrombie said the meeting was finally productive. He said he was asking for a maintenance agreement. He said he wants to see where the fence went and what money was brought out of it. He showed an article from Commissioner Braswell on transportation challenges.

Commissioner Braswell responded to public comments. He stated that on the county's website every budget since 2016 is on there. He said it is broken down and it is a huge document.

Commissioner Troutman said when you are talking about Orange County and Polk County it is important to look at populations numbers. She said Orange County has about double the number of people that live there in comparison to Polk. She said you would expect some of a difference because there is a vast difference of residents.

Chair Wilson said we talk about ten counties and he said what about the other 57 counties.

Meeting adjourned at 10:08 a.m.