



# Polk County Board of County Commissioners

## Meeting Minutes - Final

### March 17, 2026 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

<b>Present:</b>	Commissioner Becky Troutman Commissioner Rick Wilson Commissioner Bill Braswell Commissioner Martha Santiago Commissioner Michael Scott
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#### CALL TO ORDER - 9:00 a.m. (MARTHA SANTIAGO, CHAIR)

#### INVOCATION

Murphy Hanley, Polk County Fire Rescue Chaplain

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (MARTHA SANTIAGO, CHAIR)

#### A. PRESENTATIONS and RECOGNITIONS

##### A.1. Employee Recognition

**Minutes:** The Board recognized Michael Blaze from Roads and Drainage, Gregory Toole from Fire Rescue, Edward Huff from Fire Rescue and Dixon Palma from Fire Rescue for their years of service with the county.

#### B. PUBLIC COMMENTS CONCERNING AGENDA ITEMS

##### B.1. Comments.

**Minutes:** There was no one wishing to speak concerning Agenda Items.

**C. COUNTY COMPTROLLER (STACY M. BUTTERFIELD, CPA)**

C.1. Disbursements.

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

C.2. Minutes of Regular Board meeting held on March 3, 2026.

<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

**D. APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**

D.1. Approve Consent Agenda.

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

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

G.1. Approve agreement with Driven Security LLC, to replace the current security systems, at the South County and the Central County Jail Facilities (\$7,300,000.00 one-time expense).

**Minutes:** County Manager Bill Beasley discussed the agreement with Driven Security LLC, to replace the current security systems at the South County and the Central County Jail facilities. He recommended approval.

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

G.2. Request Board approve 1) Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR), Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) Addendum with Miller Construction Management, Inc. for the Bradley Fire Rescue Station CIP project (\$6,076,766.58 one-time expense) and 2) CIP amendment and budget transfer from the Emergency Medical Millage Fund Reserve for Future Capital in the amount of \$1,054,532.00 to fully fund the project.

**Minutes:** County Manager Bill Beasley discussed the Construction Manager at Risk Guaranteed Maximum Price Addendum with Miller Construction Management, Inc., for the Bradley Fire Rescue Station CIP project, amendment and budget transfer. He recommended approval.

Upon question, Fire Chief Shawn Smith said the distance from the old station to the new station is less than a mile.

Mr. Beasley said they will see if there is an internal need for the building or they will surplus the site and put it back on the tax roll.

Commissioner Wilson said that station has been there a while and Bradley is needing an update. He said it is at a better location and it is a good thing.

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

G.3. Approve the Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) 2020-051-06, Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) Addendum with Henkelman Construction, Inc., for the Eagle Lake Fire Rescue Station (\$5,560,276.00 one-time expense)

**Minutes:** County Manager Bill Beasley discussed the Construction Manager at Risk 2020-051-06, Guaranteed Maximum Price Addendum with Henkelman Construction, Inc., for the Eagle Lake Fire Rescue Station. He recommended approval.

Upon question, Fire Chief Shawn Smith said just over a mile is the distance from the old station to the new station.

Mr. Beasley said they will make an assessment for this building and it will be repurposed.

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

G.4. Request Board approve 1) Construction contract with Strickland Construction, Inc. for the new Lakeland Hills EMS Station (\$3,695,394.00 one-time expense) and 2) CIP amendment and budget transfer from EMS Impact Fee Reserve for Future Capital in the amount of \$147,731.00 to fully fund the project.

**Minutes:** County Manager Bill Beasley discussed the Construction contract with Strickland Construction, Inc., for the new Lakeland Hills EMS Station, CIP amendment and budget transfer. He recommended approval.

Upon question, Fire Chief Shawn Smith said the EMS specific station is within the City of Lakeland limits. He said as our responses have gone up the call volume is drastically increasing. He said an EMS specific station hires single certified EMT's and

paramedics and he said they staff ambulances. He said this one is a transport service and getting that unit within the city helps with response times and the closest unit response. He said this is the first EMS specific station they have built since he has been here and normally they have built joint stations.

Mr. Beasley said we now have a prototype and a pilot program for Fire Rescue facilities and EMS facilities.

Chief Smith said we are obligated to provide the EMS transport for the whole county. He said although municipalities have their own fire departments we still have rescues or ambulances in those cities and we provide all medical care under Dr. Banerjee's license. He said they are responsible for 130,000 to 135,000 calls per year and about 80,000 to 82,000 of those calls are medical.

Chair Santiago said she knows how important it is when you are in a crisis and you need an ambulance right away. She said we are glad to see this coming to Polk County.

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

G.5. Approve Sub-Agreement No. SA-7 to the Water Wheeling Infrastructure Master Cost-Sharing Agreement with the Water Cooperative of Central Florida relating to the Cypress Lake Wellfield Project. (\$2,651,589.00 not-to-exceed, one-time expense)

**Minutes:** County Manager Bill Beasley discussed the Sub-Agreement No. SA-7 to the Water Wheeling Infrastructure Master Cost-Sharing Agreement with the Water Cooperative of Central Florida relating to the Cypress Lake Wellfield project. He recommended approval.

Commissioner Scott said he was sitting on the Board for WCCF and the focus of that group has been tremendous in finding alternative water supplies in a way that is scientifically meaningful. He said it is a complex and long term project with other municipalities participating. He said it is good to see the collaboration for us to have the water supply.

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

G.6. Approve and ratify the Letters of Agreement for all eight of the participating Managed Care Organizations (\$6,674,186.06 estimated one-time revenue)

**Minutes:** County Manager Bill Beasley requested the Board approve and ratify the Letters of Agreement for all eight of the participating Managed Care Organizations. He recommended approval.

Holly Newton, Fire Rescue, discussed the program and said they have been with this program since 2019. She said they have received \$18 million in revenue from this program. She said Medicaid transports make up about 16% of the claims and with Medicaid you get a flat rate of \$190 per run. She said the average run is about \$660 and there is a big difference between the two. She said this program was started to recoup some of the funds to reimburse us back from the state agency and the federal government. She outlined how the program works and said it is a lengthy process that takes a year. She said there are eight Managed Care Organizations within our region that are state mandated. She said the revenue received from this program has helped tremendously. She said this has helped with paramedic school and the bonus structure to bring paramedics into our organization.

Upon question, Ms. Newton said this is for those under the Medicaid program. She said they can bill for the run which they get \$190 back from the state. She said when they do a claim the information is pulled up, sent to the billing company, and the billing company sees who needs to be billed, they dictate where the bill goes, send it to the state, and the state reimburses for the \$190.

Mr. Beasley said the information provided by the patient starts the billing process and they triage where it goes from there. He said if they are uninsured it could go to Medicaid/Medicare.

Ms. Newton said the billing company, Digitech, determines who is insured.

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

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

H.1. Commissioner Troutman Comments.

**Minutes:** Commissioner Troutman said the paramedic that was greatly injured in the accident in December went home last Friday, March 13th. She said it was a little over three months, he is back home, and that is a very good news story for Fire Rescue and the county.

**I. COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 2 (RICK WILSON)**

I.1. Commissioner Wilson Comments.

**Minutes:** Commissioner Wilson had no comments.

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

J.1. Commissioner Braswell Comments.

**Minutes:** Commissioner Braswell had no comments.

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

K.1. Commissioner Scott Comments.

**Minutes:** Commissioner Scott had no comments.

**L. COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 4 (MARTHA SANTIAGO, CHAIR)**

L.1. Seasonal Residential Yard Waste Update - Brian Cogswell (Solid Waste Division Director)

**Minutes:** Solid Waste Director Brian Cogswell showed slides and gave an update on the yard waste from the freeze. He showed charts of the usage and the service calls. He said there has been a decline in the commercial services and the residents are using the residential services. He said the number of NCN tags are going down and the customer calls are the same. He said there was 181 tons of yard waste collected. He said the haulers have been phenomenal collecting the debris.

County Manager Bill Beasley said this will be done for 60 days.

L.2. Chair Santiago Comments.

**Minutes:** Chair Santiago had no comments.

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

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

N.1. PUBLIC HEARING (LDCT-2025-25 Communication Towers) (Adoption Hearing) to consider the adoption of an ordinance amending the Land Development Code to lower the level of review for Monopole Communication Towers in non-residential districts; to modify Communication Tower conditional use standards; and add standards and a definition for Mobile Communication Towers. (No Fiscal Impact)

**Minutes:** Erik Peterson, Land Development, reviewed the proposed text amendment for Communication Towers. He recommended approval.

Upon question, Mr. Peterson said there is a one times the height of the tower setback for residential property lines.

The Chair opened a public hearing; no one spoke.

<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

N.2. PUBLIC HEARING (LDCT-2025-26 Car Washes) (Adoption Hearing) to consider

the adoption of an ordinance amending the Land Development Code to consolidate the number of car wash uses. (No Fiscal Impact)

**Minutes:** Erik Peterson, Land Development, reviewed the proposed text amendment for Car Washes. He recommended approval.

The Chair opened a public hearing; no one spoke.

<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

N.3. PUBLIC HEARING (LDCT-2025-27 Drive-Thru Facilities) (Adoption Hearing) to consider the adoption of an ordinance amending the Land Development Code to clarify standards pertaining to drive-thru facilities. (No Fiscal Impact)

**Minutes:** Erik Peterson, Land Development, reviewed the proposed text amendment for Drive-Thru Facilities. He recommended approval.

The Chair opened a public hearing; no one spoke.

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

N.4. PUBLIC HEARING (LDCPAS-2025-35 Recker Highway BPC CPA) (Adoption Hearing) to consider the adoption of a Small-Scale Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPA) to change the Future Land Use designation on 12.91 +/- acres from Residential Suburban (RS) to Business Park Center-X (BPCX) in the Suburban Development Area (SDA). This case is related to LDCD-2025-11 Recker Hwy BPC to BPC-2. (No Fiscal Impact)

**Minutes:** Erik Peterson, Land Development, reviewed the proposed map amendment. He recommended approval.

Upon question, Mr. Peterson said salvage yards are only allowed in industrial categories. He said their ability to expand is in the BPC district.

The Chair opened a public hearing; no one spoke.

<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

N.5. PUBLIC HEARING (LDCD-2025-11 Recker Hwy BPC-2 Sub-District Change) (Adoption Hearing) to consider the adoption of a Sub-District change on 12.91 +/- acres from Business Park Center-1 (BPC-1) to Business Park Center-2 (BPC-2) in the Suburban Development Area (SDA). This case is related to

LDCPAS-2025-35 Recker Highway BPC CPA. (No Fiscal Impact)

**Minutes:** Erik Peterson, Land Development, reviewed the proposed sub-district amendment. He recommended approval.

The Chair opened a public hearing; no one spoke.

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

**O. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

O.1. PUBLIC HEARING (LDCU-2025-29 Mammoth Grove Mine) (De Novo Hearing) to consider an appeal to the Planning Commission’s decision to deny the case (6:1) on December 3, 2025. (No Fiscal Impact)

**Minutes:** County Attorney Randy Mink reminded the audience of the De Novo hearing procedures.

Commissioner Troutman said she has had ex parte communications with both sides and a site visit not to this one but to a sand mine to see the operation.

Commissioner Wilson said he has not visited the site but he has talked with the lead on the sand mine.

Chair Santiago said she had communication with the applicant, emails, and phone calls with the citizens.

Commissioner Braswell said he had conversations with the applicant and emails.

Commissioner Scott said he had conversations with the applicant, emails, and phone calls.

Ian Nance, Land Development, reviewed the proposed request for De Novo hearing. He said the request is for a Conditional Use for a sand mine on approximately 656 acres. He reviewed the mining requirements and the site plan. He reviewed the access points and setback requirements. He said since it was denied by the Planning Commission, 200 acres adjacent to Saddlebag Resort has been removed from the project. He said this area has been active in sand mining. He said hauling from this mine will not directly impact local roads and no truck traffic is permitted to go north on Mammoth Grove Road. He said at full operation this could create 536 annual daily trips and 17 peak hour trips. He said there will be 100 foot setbacks from rights-of-way and property lines. He said a water truck will be used to suppress dust. He said they must maintain a 200-foot setback in addition to the berm. He discussed reclamation and post-closure plans. He said an annual report for phosphate mines must be submitted to Land Development. He said that staff will inspect the site annually for spillage and compliance. He said that staff recommends approval. He said this is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Land Development Code.

Upon question, Mr. Nance said if there is open space left it will be fee-simple ownership of the waterway. He said in an area like this you will not have high density residential. He said a 6-foot berm is proposed. He said Saddlebag has been there since 1971 and it was originally an RV Park. He said it is roughly three miles from shopping areas.

Bart Allen, applicant, said he has a number of experts to tenure as witnesses. He discussed their qualifications.

Mr. Mink asked if there are any objections or voir dire; no one spoke.

Motion to Qualify Richard Crockett, Matt Mouncey, Mark Stephens, Lee Walton, Amber Gartner, Tracy Mouncey, and Dr. Robert DeMott as expert witnesses.

<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

**Minutes:** Mr. Allen showed slides and reviewed the request for a non-phosphate mine. He discussed the project size and showed the location of the 200 acres removed from the request. He discussed the allowable uses for the site. He showed a map of the area and said it is contiguous to the mineral protection area. He said this is a wet mining application and there will be no rock crushing, no chemical processing, no batch plant and no block plant. He said they will be hydraulically dredging underwater and pumping the slurry back to the sorting plant. He said this minimizes noise and dust. He discussed traffic data and said the proposed trucks are 268 per day with 536 trips and he said that is the max capacity. He discussed the need for sand and the types of projects it can be used for. He gave background information on the site and discussed the surrounding areas. He reviewed the future land use map. He said that staff recommends approval and after the Planning Commission denial there is still a recommendation of approval from staff. He discussed the components and said they need a mine plan approval and operating permit. He said they are not asking for a deviation from the code requirements and they will implement a six foot berm. He said the truck stacking will be on site and not on the rights-of-way. He said the material is wet which prevents dust. He said sand mining uses a light amount of water and it is from the surficial aquifer. He stated they did a minor traffic study and there is plenty of capacity with no reduction in the level of service. He said environmental impacts will be constantly reviewed and evaluated over time. He discussed the transportation analysis and said there are 77 AM peak hour trips and 17 PM peak hour trips. He said they are prohibited from going north on Mammoth Grove Road and they will have access to the south. He showed the intersection and said there is plenty of opportunity to safely maneuver through the intersection. He said Dr. Robert DeMott reported that there is no basis to expect silicosis or similar conditions. He stated there will be no release and inhalation of PM2.5 particles. He said there are no expected health concerns. He said it is compatible with the Comp Plan and Land Development Code.

Mr. Allen responded to questions from the Board. He said they have 300-400 feet for

the internal stacking of the trucks. He confirmed it is a comparable size to the Cemex site.

Dr. DeMott clarified that the height of the berm is 6 feet and that does not change his opinion.

Amber Gartner, applicant, said the traffic analysis is based on Monday through Saturday operations for 312 days a year.

Mr. Allen said the trucks will not be running 365 days a year. He said the height for the stacks is 25 to 35 feet.

Katherine Pratt, appellant, discussed her qualifications. She said when they see her presentation they will understand that it is of a level that is bringing to point the code, what the code requires, and what the county requires to find compatibility. She said she has lots of data to show how the compatibility is questionable. She said she would like to be recognized as an engineer who can do data analysis. She said she is retired and does not maintain her engineering license.

Motion to Qualify Katherine Pratt as an expert witness.

<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

**Minutes:** Ms. Pratt objected to the December 3, 2025, Planning Commission minutes and she said it was not included in the agenda packet and none of them have seen this. She submitted evidence into the record.

Mr. Allen said he does not know to object or not because he has not seen the evidence.

Ms. Pratt provided an updated list of signatures for those in support of her speaking. She said she is representing Thomas Lake, Cypress Lake, Park Lake, St. Anne Shrine, and South Shore.

Mr. Mink confirmed that anyone Ms. Pratt is representing will not be able to speak during the public comments.

Ms. Pratt showed slides and spoke in opposition. She said many in the area oppose this due to the long-term impacts. She showed a proposed map and discussed the surrounding residential areas. She discussed the lakes near the site and said these are lakeside residential environments. She said they are drawing from the surficial aquifer. She said the applicant must demonstrate compatibility. She said the scale of the operation is important and she said to reference the size of the truck in comparison to the mines. She said there is no restriction on the height as long as the setbacks are met. She showed a photo of an existing sand mine operation. She discussed hydraulic

dredging and said it will impact the community. She discussed the report from Dr. DeMott and said there is no quantitative modeling, no predicted particulate levels, no dispersion modeling, and no comparison to any regulatory standards. She said it is not supported by scientific analysis and there is not substantial evidence. She said residents are concerned with nuisance, dust, air quality and daily exposure and she said these are not addressed here. She said there is dust near the existing mine entrance and showed a picture of dust at an existing sand mine. She said the applicant is responsible to inspect adjacent roadway conditions for spillage and provide clean up for each day of operation. She discussed the Lake Wales Ridge and said there are no emissions inventory, no air dispersion modeling, and no evaluation of particulate exposure. She said air quality impacts have not been properly evaluated. She discussed noise and said it will occur at all hours. She discussed an ambient sound environment. She played ambient sound noises and dredge noises. She said noise compatibility has not been evaluated. She discussed industrial lighting, nighttime lighting, dredge lighting, dredge mining and ground water, evaporation, and groundwater flow. She discussed the intersection and the intersection elevation. She showed a video of trucks blocking traffic and said this is a sample of the hauling trucks. She discussed State Road 60 crashes. She said there is not an intersection safety analysis in the record. She said compatibility has not been proven and she asked that this be denied.

The Chair opened a public hearing.

Matthew Machata was sworn in by County Attorney Randy Mink. He said he is a citrus grower and said his livelihood depends on clean groundwater. He said the hydraulic impact is important to him. He spoke in opposition and discussed the applicant's report. He said replacing citrus groves with large open water mining does not produce water savings. He discussed the loss of water and he asked where is the confidential substantial evidence.

Dorothy Logan spoke in opposition. She said this still has multiple pits near residential. She said the most intense mining occurs before wet mining begins. She said the burden of compatibility is not satisfied by the applicant. She said she opposes the revised application.

Karen Beahon said she is a Saddlebag resident. She discussed the particles and said they are small enough to be inhaled and can remain suspended in the air. She said there is no air quality analysis and no data monitoring. She said they do not have the technical information. She asked for an air quality analysis.

Ruth Shafer said she is a Saddlebag Lake Resort resident. She spoke in opposition and discussed groundwater and excavation below groundwater. She said it must be supported by evidence and analysis. She said to save our water and deny the application.

Deniele Pahl said they have seen both sides and we have heard that the traffic will increase. She said there has been five deaths in this ten mile stretch. She said this will make the problem worse.

Andy Malburg showed a video of Aaron Grenner speaking about the lakes drying, the effect on the pipelines and how it will devastate the country.

Alana Ward spoke in opposition and said it will recreate multiple reclaimed lakes that will be connected to the aquifer. She discussed concerns with the groundwater systems. She asked for denial.

Diane Perkins said their community has wells and she said there are no studies on how the wells will be affected. She said their community has not been heard and the water aquifer should be looked at seriously. She said she opposes this.

Charles Perkins Jr. spoke in opposition and said he is a retired combat disabled veteran. He said there is missing information. He said there is one access and said their property values will tank. He asked for a no vote.

Suzanne Speidel said she is a resident at Saddlebag Resort. She discussed traffic and safety. She said yesterday a sand truck ran into a vehicle and demolished it. She said there are no traffic lights and she discussed concerns with traffic. She said she is a nurse and discussed the care she has provided to accident victims. She said protecting lives is the bottom line.

Marsha Pawley spoke in opposition and discussed how this is close to residential properties. She said many live here year round and this raises a compatibility issue with the particles. She said the application does not show air quality impacts. She said this cannot be compatible and it is important to monitor the air.

Gordon Christie said he is a resident of Saddlebag Lake Resort. He spoke in opposition and discussed trucks moving sand piles and dry materials. He discussed dust emissions and said a wet sand mine has multiple sources of airborne dust. He asked if it will be fully electric with no diesel components.

Janet Nowak spoke in opposition and discussed an air quality analysis. She said that the air borne analysis has not appeared.

Loretta Garcia said she is opposed to the sand mine.

Andrew Beck spoke in opposition and said he has property in the area. He discussed the truck traffic in comparison to citrus traffic. He said you cannot say changing the water flow does not affect things. He discussed traffic concerns with the intersection. He said to consider no for this application.

Diane Gillies said she lives in Saddlebag Lake Resort. She spoke in opposition and discussed night time noise. She discussed concerns with decibels increasing and said it is important to consider if this is appropriate for residential living. She asked that this application is turned down.

Steven Gillies discussed the traffic study and said the code requires that intersections are evaluated. He said this does not include an intersection analysis. He discussed concerns with traffic.

Tiffany Davidson said she lives in the Tiger Creek Reserve. She said their property was affected by a mine and she discussed the sulfur smell from the well water. She discussed concerns with trucks and said they have pulled out in front of ambulances. She discussed health concerns. She said a stoplight has been out since the storm. She said the highway has been abandoned.

Janet Dunlap spoke in opposition and discussed concerns with this project and agricultural land. She asked if land zoned for agriculture should be permanently removed from agricultural use. She discussed the Mineral Resource Protection District.

Skip Dunlap said they live on Cypress Lake and said he travels that intersection everyday. He said it is an uphill grade and he said the danger is unbelievable. He said the intersection is not compatible and said it is in the 65 mph lane and not an acceleration lane. He said if they pass this it is about money and not about quality of life.

Jennifer Castro said her pasture is 12 feet away from the lake. She said sand mining is no different than fracking. She said to go back to Georgia and do this stuff. She said they pay taxes here and they are owed a quality of life. She said they did not choose to be subjected to rich people. She spoke in opposition and said they need to be protected.

Patrick Schirard said he would like to see the citrus grower as his neighbor. He said he will stand by the county to administer the codes as a property owner within the accepted land uses. He said the concerns should be paramount but to not take away his rights as a property owner.

Ron Tulin said he lives on Cypress Lake. He said this is contiguous to the lake. He said this proposal changes everything. He said Ms. Pratt's presentation was based on scientific data. He said approval will shift the burden to homeowners. He said this is not a minor inconvenience it is a fundamental inconvenience. He asked for denial.

Michelle Davies was sworn in by County Attorney Randy Mink. She said she is a neighboring property owner. She talked about sand skinks and their protection. She said the land was previously used for citrus.

Ms. Garter spoke in rebuttal. She said they did a minor traffic study for the trip generation of the site. She said staff may require an intersection analysis but it is not a requirement because they have a 2.5% impact on Mammoth Grove Road and less than 1% impact on SR 60. She said they pulled traffic crash data and said this is not a high crash location. She said for the last six years there were four crashes at SR 60 and Mammoth Grove Road and there were twelve crashes on SR 60 between Mammoth Grove Road and Saddlebag Lake Road. She stated that data does not prove that there is a crash history or a crash safety issue. She said Polk County Vision Zero did not identify this area as a high crash location. She said this is a 1% increase in truck percentage and it is insignificant.

Mark Stephens, applicant, talked about hydrology. He said they have not seen the

impact on the water table aquifer. He said since there is separation between the surficial aquifer and the Upper Florida Aquifer there is no impact there. He discussed the evaporation rates and said it is replenished by rainfall. He said the sand mines have proven that the mining operations do not have any impact on the water table aquifer.

Mr. Allen said the sand sink studies happen closer to disturbing the land. He said they have months of engineering and design before we get to that point. He said non-phosphate mines are allowed in every future land use classification but preservation. He discussed the Conditional Uses and the additional criteria that ensures compatibility. He said they provided reports and an analysis for all of the conditions. He said they have met those conditions and they are in compliance. He said the decibels showed by Ms. Pratt are in acceptable ranges. He said at the Level 2 that they will do an intersection safety analysis.

Upon question, Dr. DeMott said the berm height is not relevant to the concerns about respirable silica. He said it would be relevant to controlling the material coming off the trucks. He said with summer storms or if there is a strong wind flow you may see those types of conditions. He said with regards to lung cancer or silicosis it is related to daily exposure over many years and not on occasional days when there might be wind blown dust. He said based on the scientific literature there are no indications that we see silicosis or lung cancer in communities near sand mining operations. He said that data goes back into the 80's.

Upon question, Mr. Nance discussed the areas between Lake Wales and Indian Lakes Estates. He said there are old developments that probably would not be approved today under the rural development area or agriculture residential rural districts. He said that there are pockets of intense development that occurred during previous zoning rules. He said Saddlebag would be higher density.

Upon question, Matt Mouncey, applicant, said the material would stay on site for use, reclamation and berms. He said for dust mitigation there will be the use of water trucks to tamper it down.

Upon question, Mr. Stephens discussed the range in depths of water supply for wells. He said there could be some residual wells that are older in the area and some are installed to irrigate lawns. He said when talking about the groundwater flow depending on where you are in the topography it flows out from the higher elevations. He said if you are excavating through and into the surficial aquifer though the water table the mining area would have had a slope on it. He said when you dig a lake the water level becomes level. He said it will be higher on the down gradient side and lower on the up gradient side. He discussed an environmental management plan for a mine and said it involves what parameters you will monitor, the period of time and where you are going to monitor those things. He said majority of that is water level in the surficial aquifer. He said you may have ten years of baseline water level data that you can use to evaluate the effect of the mining on the water levels.

Upon question, Mr. Allen said he has not heard of a health report on sand mines. He said those kinds of cases are not in existence based on Dr. DeMott's report. He said

the letter of support from the HOA is from the HOA and was signed by one of the board members. He said that letter does not bind individual residents. He said a person has the right to have their own opinion but it does cover the entire Saddlebag Lake HOA. He said they have a restrictive covenant on the 200 acres. He said that agreement was to be shared with all the owners.

Commissioner Troutman said she made a site visit to a similar operation because she considers her vote and wants it to be fact based. She said she does not believe the people who scheduled her to be there knew of the site visit. She said there was a burgundy vehicle with no dust on the vehicle and there was no dust covering doors as you go to walk into places. She said she wanted to see firsthand and this was the area where they would be loading the trucks. She stated she did not understand what wet dredging looked like and where they are dredging it is no different than riding around a lake anywhere in Polk County. She said where they were loading the vehicles there was no dust covering the vehicle. She said that is what she expected to see and that site visit alone answered a lot of common sense concerns that she heard today. She said it is not a dust storm waiting to happen.

The Chair closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Scott said looking on Google Maps there is a valid concern as far as traffic safety. He said it is not a mini wheeler dump truck it is a semi towing a trailer over 47 feet long. He said coming out on 60 making the left turn there is no acceleration lane and there will be impedance into the travel lanes just because of the length of the truck and trailer. He said he has been to several sand mines and it comes down to the mine operator mentality on if they are dusty or not or if they maintain the status quo and have water trucks and the sprinklers. He said he has seen where it does look like a dust storm 24/7. He said there are a lot of things that could be for the success or demise of the project. He said you are required to have onsite monitoring and compliance. He stated the reality is there is not enough staff resources to go around to enforce the permit conditions. He said if there is a hard freeze and the vegetation goes off the berm you have dust mitigation measures. He said adverse impacts off-site are likely. He stated there would be adverse impacts to both the travel ways around the area. He said his concern is how the site plan is laid out. He said he would like to see a different site plan. He said he is not in support.

Commissioner Braswell said his job is determining compatibility. He said his nephew lives in Country Oaks and he has measured it as 1,400 feet from the other sand mine. He said he never talked about sand, dust, and noise. He said they would not of known it was there. He said it is compatible and he will be supporting this.

Commissioner Troutman said the definition of compatibility is can they can coexist over time without undue harm to each other. She said we have an existing sand mine that has been there for decades and neighborhoods have been built within some of the vicinities that we are hearing concerns about. She echos with what Commissioner Braswell said that when you look at compatibility they can coexist and being adjacent to another sand mine is the ideal location.

Commissioner Wilson said the first sand mine here was in 1941 and all his life that

area has been sand mines. He said they moved close to a sand mine back in the day. He said when we talk about traffic he agrees that we have way too much traffic on Highway 60. He said with or without the sand mine there will be a lot of traffic. He said you cannot ask much more for compatibility with what is in this area. He said people do not like change and the sand mine is there. He said he is for this.

Chair Santiago said Highway 60 is a dangerous road and we have had quite a bit of accidents. She said she appreciates Ms. Garter bringing the crash history and apparently none of them were related to a sand mine or truck. She said we will continue to have accidents, the drivers drive too fast and they are careless. She said that a lot of changes have taken place, they have accommodated the people, and the changes are a reflection of that. She said the HOA letter does not bind everyone but it gives an indication that they are okay with this. She said she will support this.

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

O.2. PUBLIC HEARING to consider the adoption of an Ordinance of the Polk County Board of County Commissioner entitled the Polk County Right-of-Way Sign Enforcement Ordinance.

**Minutes:** County Attorney Randy Mink discussed the proposed ordinance entitled the Polk County Right-of-Way Sign Enforcement Ordinance. He said it creates a fine of \$250 per sign. He said if they do not remove the sign within 7 days then the cost of removal is imposed against the beneficiary user of the sign. He recommended approval.

The Chair opened a public hearing; no one spoke.

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

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

P.1. Comments.

**Minutes:** Cassandra Richards said she misses coming to the meetings and she has been substituting for Polk County. She said she wishes the people had not left and she was once in their position dealing with the pipe plant. She said what used to be is not always so with too many people coming into the county. She said when it comes to Highway 60 it is a busy road and a lot of crashes have taken place since they started building out. She said that she may be reaching out because the dump trucks that come through are beating down the humps. She said she will probably be back asking for them to be redone.

Chair Santiago thanked Ms. Richards for coming and said it is always good to see her.

Meeting adjourned at 1:22 p.m.