



## BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

**FINAL MINUTES**  
**5/20/2025 9:00 AM**

**MINUTES**  
**COMMISSION CHAMBERS**  
**2401 SE MONTEREY ROAD, STUART, FLORIDA 34996**

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### **COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

*Sarah Heard, Chair*

*Edward V. Ciampi, Vice Chairman*

*Eileen Vargas, District 1*

*Stacey Hetherington, District 2*

*J. Blake Capps, District 3*

*Don G. Donaldson, P.E., County Administrator*

*Elysse A. Elder, Acting County Attorney*

*Carolyn Timmann, Clerk of the Circuit Court and  
Comptroller*

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### **CALL TO ORDER**

**Present:** 5 - Commissioner Stacey Hetherington  
Commissioner Eileen Vargas  
Commissioner J. Blake Capps  
Chair Sarah Heard  
Vice Chair Edward V. Ciampi

Invocation - Moment of Silence

Pledge of Allegiance - Shawn Lisowy, U.S. Army Veteran

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Hetherington, seconded by Vice Chair Ciampi, to approve the agenda with additional items PROC-2, CNST-12, CNST-13, DEPT-5, and DEPT-6. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 5 - Commissioner Hetherington, Commissioner Vargas, Commissioner Capps, Chair Heard, and Vice Chair Ciampi

## **PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

### **PROC-1 PRESENT PROCLAMATIONS PREVIOUSLY APPROVED VIA THE CONSENT AGENDA**

Agenda Item: 25-0771

Communications Manager Laura Beaupre presented the proclamations to the Board.

Shawn Lisowy and Michael Drost accepted the Memorial Day proclamation.

Shawn Litenhauer accepted the Family Abduction Awareness Day proclamation on behalf of Kelly Lightbourn.

Public Works Director Jim Gorton (and Public Works staff) accepted the Public Works Week proclamation.

Flotilla 59 Commander Robert Hess accepted the Safe Boating Week proclamation.

### **PROC-2 ADOPT AND PRESENT A PROCLAMATION DECLARING EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK IN MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

Agenda Item: 25-1003

Communications Manager Laura Beaupre presented the proclamation to the Board.

Martin County Fire Rescue District Chief Kevin Moore accepted the Emergency Medical Services Week proclamation.

MOTION: A motion was made by Vice Chair Ciampi, seconded by Commissioner Hetherington, to adopt the proclamation. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 5 - Commissioner Hetherington, Commissioner Vargas, Commissioner Capps, Chair Heard, and Vice Chair Ciampi

## **COMMENTS**

Public (9:05 AM) - Please limit comments to three minutes.

Tom Pine spoke regarding the consent agenda, federal funding for hurricane season, and the proposed fire station.

Commissioners

### **AM**

Commissioner Hetherington announced that the utility box over the Veterans Memorial Bridge will be wrapped to honor Martin County Veterans and their contributions.

Commissioner Capps thanked County staff and the Army Corp of Engineers for the tour over the C23 and C24 reservoirs and stormwater treatment areas.

**PM**

Vice Chair Ciampi wished the men a Happy Father's Day.

County Administrator

**AM**

Assistant County Administrator George Stokus recognized Parks and Recreation staff on their recent achievements.

County Attorney Sarah Woods welcomed Senior Assistant County Attorney Sebastian Fox back to the County Attorney's Office.

**PM**

County Administrator Don Donaldson provided updates from his meeting with the Town of Jupiter Island. He thanked Assistant County Administrator George Stokus for acting in his absence.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Approval of Consent Agenda

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Hetherington, seconded by Vice Chair Ciampi, to approve the consent agenda with the withdrawal of CNST-5 through CNST-9. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 5 - Commissioner Hetherington, Commissioner Vargas,  
Commissioner Capps, Chair Heard, and Vice Chair Ciampi

**ADMINISTRATION**

**CNST-1 CONTRACTS THAT MEET THE THRESHOLD FOR BOARD APPROVAL**

Agenda Item: 25-0353

There were no items.

**CNST-2 BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' APPROVAL OF WARRANT LIST FOR DISBURSEMENT VIA CHECKS AND ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS TO COMPLY WITH STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS**

Agenda Item: 25-0364

This item was approved.

**CNST-3 NOTED ITEMS**

Agenda Item: 25-0371

This item was approved.

**CNST-4 ADOPT PROCLAMATIONS COMMENDING JEFFREY BOBO JR.,  
LOGAN HAMMOND, MARLIN BLACK, AND STEPHEN ORHN UPON  
THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF EAGLE SCOUT**

Agenda Item: 25-0950

This item was approved.

**BUILDING**

**CNST-5 REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF FINE REDUCTION STIPULATION AND  
AGREED RECOMMENDED ORDER REGARDING THE CODE  
ENFORCEMENT CASE OF LISA M. CHITTY AND CHRIS BISHOP CASE  
NUMBER ENF2023020728**

Agenda Item: 25-0932

This item was withdrawn.

**CNST-6 REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF FINE REDUCTION STIPULATION AND  
AGREED RECOMMENDED ORDER REGARDING THE CODE  
ENFORCEMENT CASE OF DAWN MARIE DECKER CASE NUMBER  
ENF2019050887**

Agenda Item: 25-0934

This item was withdrawn.

**CNST-7 REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF FINE REDUCTION STIPULATION AND  
AGREED RECOMMENDED ORDER REGARDING THE CODE  
ENFORCEMENT CASE OF SHERRY AND GORDON PALMER CASE  
NUMBER 15-0097780**

Agenda Item: 25-0935

This item was withdrawn.

**CNST-8 REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF FINE REDUCTION STIPULATION AND  
AGREED RECOMMENDED ORDER REGARDING THE CODE  
ENFORCEMENT CASE OF TERRY LOU JACOBSON AND CRYSTAL L.  
FENTON, CASE NUMBER 16-0103045**

Agenda Item: 25-0936

This item was withdrawn.

**CNST-9 REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF FINE REDUCTION STIPULATION AND  
AGREED RECOMMENDED ORDER REGARDING THE CODE  
ENFORCEMENT CASE OF HOLLY A. SPEAKMAN, CASE NUMBER  
ENF2024070619**

Agenda Item: 25-0937

This item was withdrawn.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

**CNST-10 APPOINTMENT OF MARTIN COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE FOR JUNE 5, 2025 PAL MAR WATER CONTROL DISTRICT ANNUAL LANDOWNERS' MEETING AND BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING**  
Agenda Item: 25-0917

This item was approved.

**CNST-11 REQUEST TO EXECUTE THE COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS FOR THE HUTCHINSON ISLAND SHORE PROTECTION PROJECT**  
Agenda Item: 25-0942

This item was approved.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

**CNST-12 ADOPT PROCLAMATIONS COMMENDING BENNETT SCOTT AND DAVIS SCOTT UPON THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF EAGLE SCOUT**  
Agenda Item: 25-1005

This item was approved.

**CNST-13 APPROVAL OF AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN MARTIN COUNTY AND THE VILLAGE OF INDIANTOWN FOR USE OF TIMER POWERS PARK**  
Agenda Item: 25-1000

This item was approved.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

**PH-1 PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER ADOPTING A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A ROAD TRANSFER AGREEMENT WITH THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR SW MARTIN HIGHWAY, SE INDIAN STREET, NE JENSEN BEACH BOULEVARD, AND NE CAUSEWAY BOULEVARD**  
Agenda Item: 25-0601

### **RESOLUTION NO. 25-5.17**

Public Works Director Jim Gorton presented the item to the Board. County Engineer Michael Grzelka assisted with Board questions.

Chair Heard solicited public comment; none was heard.

MOTION: A motion was made by Vice Chair Ciampi, seconded by Commissioner Hetherington, to approve staff's recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 5 - Commissioner Hetherington, Commissioner Vargas, Commissioner Capps, Chair Heard, and Vice Chair Ciampi

**PUBLIC HEARING QUASI-JUDICIAL**

**PHQJ-1 PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER ADOPTION OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE MARTIN COUNTY ZONING ATLAS TO CHANGE THE ZONING DISTRICT CLASSIFICATION FOR JENSEN BEACH MHP, LLC.  
(P125-013)**

Agenda Item: 25-0931

**RESOLUTION NO. 25-5.11**

Ex parte communication disclosures were provided by the Commissioners. There were no interveners. The participants were sworn in by the deputy clerk.

COUNTY: Growth Management Principal Planner Brian Elam presented staff's recommendation. Growth Management Deputy Director Peter Walden and Deputy County Attorney Elysse Elder assisted with Board questions.

The following County exhibits were filed for the record: (1) agenda item/staff report and (2) Brian Elam's resume.

APPLICANT: Attorney Terry McCarthy addressed the Board on behalf of the applicant. Deena Freeman with Cuzo Planning addressed the Board.

The following member of the public spoke regarding this item: Chris Hamilton.

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Capps, seconded by Vice Chair Ciampi, to approve staff's recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 4 - Commissioner Hetherington, Commissioner Capps, Chair Heard, and Vice Chair Ciampi

**Nay:** 1 - Commissioner Vargas

**DEPARTMENTAL**

**ADMINISTRATION**

**DEPT-1 OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ITEMS WHICH REQUIRE BOARD APPROVAL**

Agenda Item: 25-0383

**RESOLUTION NOS. 25-5.12 through 25-5.16**

OMB Director Stephanie Merle presented the items to the Board. Public Works Deputy Director George Dzama assisted with Board questions.

The following items were approved: (1) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for the Bessey Creek Retrofit Project, (2) FY 2025 Safe Streets and Roads for All Implementation Grant for SE Dixie Highway Complete Streets Projects, (3) Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Urban Forestry Grant for Sailfish Sands Golf Course Tree Planting, (4) Adjustment to the FY 2025 Budget (A) Chancey Bay Ranch PUD, (B) Allocate Contribution from Town of Jupiter Island for East Fork Creek Phase II Project, (C) Budget Resolution to Recognize Unanticipated Revenues from Insurance Proceeds, and (D) Budget Resolution to Accept Insurance Proceeds for a Drone.

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Hetherington, seconded by Commissioner Capps, to approve staff's recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 5 - Commissioner Hetherington, Commissioner Vargas, Commissioner Capps, Chair Heard, and Vice Chair Ciampi

**DEPT-2 CONTRACTS THAT MEET THE THRESHOLD FOR BOARD APPROVAL  
\$1 MILLION OR GREATER**

Agenda Item: 25-0394

Commissioner Hetherington announced she will abstain from voting on item A1; she filed her Form 8B Memorandum of Voting Conflict for the record. Procurement Supervisor Tasha Sapp presented the items to the Board.

The following items were approved: (1) Charlie Leighton Park Boat Ramp Renovations & Park Improvements and (2) SW Fox Brown Road Resurfacing.

MOTION: A motion was made by Vice Chair Ciampi, seconded by Commissioner Capps, to approve item A1. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 4 - Commissioner Vargas, Commissioner Capps, Chair Heard, and Vice Chair Ciampi

**Abstain:** 1 - Commissioner Hetherington

Agenda Item: 25-0394

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Hetherington, seconded by Vice Chair Ciampi, to approve item A2. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 5 - Commissioner Hetherington, Commissioner Vargas, Commissioner Capps, Chair Heard, and Vice Chair Ciampi

**DEPT-3 CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT AN OFFICIAL MARTIN COUNTY FLAG**

Agenda Item: 25-0918

Assistant County Administrator George Stokus provided the item to the Board.

The Commissioners shared their feedback and provided direction regarding the consideration and adoption of an official flag.

**DEPT-4 2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE**

Agenda Item: 25-0965

Legislative Coordinator Sarah Powers provided the 2025 legislative session update to the Board. Environmental Resource Administrator John Maehl and Deputy County Attorney Elysse Elder assisted with Board questions.

**DEPT-5 DISCUSSION OF RECRUITMENT FOR COUNTY ATTORNEY POSITION**

Agenda Item: 25-0697

County Administrator Don Donaldson presented the item to the Board.

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Capps, seconded by Vice Chair Ciampi, to appoint Elysse Elder as acting County Attorney, with a 10% salary increase, effective upon Sarah Woods retirement in July 2025; and direct staff to conduct an in-house recruitment in consultation with the Human Resources Division; and establish a panel to review and recommend the top candidates to the Commission. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 5 - Commissioner Hetherington, Commissioner Vargas, Commissioner Capps, Chair Heard, and Vice Chair Ciampi

**DEPT-6 CONSIDER A FACILITIES USE AGREEMENT WITH MARTIN COUNTY BLACK HERITAGE INITIATIVES, INC. FOR USE OF THE ONE ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE IN NEW MONROVIA**

Agenda Item: 25-1004

Assistant County Administrator George Stokus presented the item to the Board. Black Heritage Initiative Founder Lloyd Jones provided a brief history and overview.

The following members of the public addressed the Board regarding this item: Loretta Mckee Bradley (former student of the One Room School House), Alfred Miller, Bishop Umah Miller, Michael Syrkus, Joette Lorion Rice (Historic Preservation Society), Julie Preast, Chandler Josie, and Nancy Turrell.

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Hetherington, seconded by Vice Chair Ciampi, to approve staff's recommendation with suggested changes from Ms. Preast. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 5 - Commissioner Hetherington, Commissioner Vargas, Commissioner Capps, Chair Heard, and Vice Chair Ciampi

**PUBLIC - PLEASE LIMIT COMMENTS TO THREE MINUTES.**

There were none.



## **ADJOURN**

The Board of County Commissioners May 20, 2025 meeting adjourned at 1:53 p.m.

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Carolyn Timmann, Clerk of the  
Circuit Court and Comptroller  
/lp

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Sarah Heard, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners

Minutes approved:

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