



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

DRAFT

5/20/2025 9:00 AM

MINUTES

COMMISSION CHAMBERS

2401 SE MONTEREY ROAD, STUART, FLORIDA 34996

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*

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

The Chair will present proclamations declaring Memorial Day, recognizing Family Abduction Awareness Day, recognizing Public Works Week, and declaring Safe Boating Week in Martin County, Florida.

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

The Board is asked to 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

This item is a placeholder on all Board meeting agendas to streamline the process for items that meet the Board approval threshold. Specific items requiring approval, if any, will be provided by Supplemental Memorandum. If there are no items, a Supplemental Memorandum will not be attached.

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

Pursuant to Chapter 136.06, Florida Statutes, checks, and electronic payments issued by the Board of County Commissioners are to be recorded in the Board meeting minutes. In compliance with statutory requirements, the Warrant List is added to the Consent Agenda for approval by the Board of County Commissioners. This Warrant List is for disbursements made between April 21 and May 4, 2025. Additional details related to these disbursements may be viewed in the office of the Martin County Clerk of Court and Comptroller or on the Clerk's website.

Agenda Item: 25-0364

This item was approved.

CNST-3 NOTED ITEMS

Noted items are documents for the Board's information that must be a part of the record but do not require any action.

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

The Board extends greetings and congratulations to scouts achieving the rank 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

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 1.98B, General Ordinances, Martin County Code, the Board of County Commissioners is asked to consider approval of a Fine Reduction Stipulation and Agreed Recommended Order regarding the Code Enforcement case of Lisa M. Chitty and Chris Bishop.

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

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 1.98B, General Ordinances, Martin County Code, the Board of County Commissioners is asked to consider approval of a Fine Reduction Stipulation and Agreed Recommended Order regarding the Code Enforcement case of Dawn Marie Decker.

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

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 1.98B, General Ordinances, Martin County Code, the Board of County Commissioners is asked to consider approval of a Fine Reduction Stipulation and Agreed Recommended Order regarding the Code Enforcement case of Sherry and Gordon Palmer.

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

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 1.98B, General Ordinances, Martin County Code, the Board of County Commissioners is asked to consider approval of a Fine Reduction Stipulation and Agreed Recommended Order regarding the Code Enforcement case of Terry Lou Jacobson Crystal L. Fenton.

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

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 1.98B, General Ordinances, Martin County Code, the Board of County Commissioners is asked to consider approval of a Fine Reduction Stipulation and Agreed Recommended Order regarding the Code Enforcement case of Holly A. Speakman.

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

Commissioner Sarah Heard is Martin County's designated representative on the Pal Mar Water Control District. The Annual Landowners' Meeting and Board of Supervisors Meeting is June 5, 2025. It is necessary for the Board of County Commissioners to update the Proxy to authorize Commissioner Heard to vote on June 5, 2025, to effectuate Board of County Commissioner direction.

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**

The Board is requested to review and approve the Cooperation Agreement with the US Army Corps of Engineers for the upcoming 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**

The Board extends greetings and congratulations to scouts achieving the rank 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**

The Village of Indiantown is seeking to utilize Timer Powers Park for the purposes of conducting a Heritage Festival.

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**

The Board of County Commissioners is asked to adopt a Resolution that authorizes the execution of a Road Jurisdiction Transfer Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to transfer: a portion of CR-714 (SW Martin Highway) and SE Indian Street from the County to the FDOT and to transfer SR-732 (NE/NW Jensen Beach Boulevard) and SR-732 (NE Causeway Boulevard) from the FDOT to the County.

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)

This is a request by Cuzzo Planning Solutions, Inc., on behalf of Jensen Beach MHP, LLC for a proposed amendment to the county zoning atlas to change the zoning district classification of an approximately 17.27-acres site from Planned Unit Development (PUD) to RS-5 (Low Density Residential District) and LC (Limited Commercial District) or the most appropriate zoning districts. The RS-5 and LC zoning districts are consistent with the site's current future land use designations of Low Density and Commercial Limited. Included with this application is a request for a Certificate of Public Facilities Exemption.

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 Cuzzo 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

This is a placeholder on all Board meeting agendas to streamline the process for grant applications, awards, budget resolutions, budget transfers from reserves, and CIP amendments. Specific items requiring approval, if any, will be provided by Supplemental Memorandum.

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

This item is a placeholder on all Board meeting agendas to streamline the process for items that meet the Board approval threshold. Specific items requiring approval, if any, will be provided by Supplemental Memorandum. If there are no items, a Supplemental Memorandum will not be attached.

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

On April 8, 2025, the Martin County Board of County Commissioners requested that staff bring back an item that outlined the process and considerations necessary for the creation and adoption of a 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

Each year, the Martin County Board of County Commissioners adopts a state legislative program that sets the appropriations and policy priorities for the county. This presentation discusses the 2025 legislative priorities, the successes and any additional direction needed within the legislative program.

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

Martin County's County Attorney, Sarah Woods, will be retiring in July 2025. Staff seeks direction from the Board of County Commissioners on the recruitment process to fill this upcoming vacancy.

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

Staff is presenting a Facilities Use Agreement with the Black Heritage Initiatives, Inc. (BHI) for use of the One Room Schoolhouse located 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.

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

Sarah Heard, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

Minutes approved:

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