



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

DRAFT

7/21/2025 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 - Pastor Jim Harp, Stuart Alliance Church

Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Hetherington, seconded by Vice Chair Ciampi, to approve the agenda with consent pull CNST-2, including the consent agenda. 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 addressed concerns with Martin County's financial assistance programs.

Tienna Paris with Helping People Succeed thanked the Board for their contributions and discussed the positive impacts it had.

Maria Sperando addressed concerns with tax increases within the proposed budget.

Terry Kogl requested that the Board hold its meetings in the evenings.

Commissioners

AM

Commissioner Vargas spoke about evening Board meetings. She shared that the Hutchinson Island Beach Re-nourishment project received complete funding. Commissioner Vargas thanked the Office of Management and Budget and staff for making it possible.

Commissioner Capps announced the birth of his first grandchild, Caleb John Farley.

Commissioner Hetherington shared that the reservoir project is going to be sped up by 5 years. Commissioner Hetherington suggested implementing outreach to educate local seniors of the scams circulating in the community.

PM

There were none at this time.

County Administrator

AM

County Administrator Don Donaldson announced Jupiter Island has an agenda item coming forward to discuss a cost share agreement with the County regarding contributions to their beach program.

PM

County Administrator Don Donaldson and staff congratulated County Attorney Sarah Woods on her retirement.

County Attorney Sarah Woods thanked staff for their support during her leadership.

Deputy County Attorney Elyse Elder thanked Sarah Woods for her leadership and congratulated her on her retirement.

Growth Management Director Paul Schilling thanked County Attorney Sarah Woods for her services and congratulated her on her retirement.

Vice Chair Ciampi thanked County Attorney Sarah Woods for her services and congratulated

her on her retirement.

Commissioner Heatherington thanked County Attorney Sarah Woods for her service and congratulated her on her retirement.

Commissioner Capps thanked County Attorney Sarah Woods for her services and congratulated her on her retirement.

Chair Heard thanked County Attorney Sarah Woods for her service and congratulated her on her retirement.

Commissioner Vargas thanked County Attorney Sarah Woods for her service and congratulated her on her retirement.

CONSENT AGENDA

ADMINISTRATION

CNST-1 JENSEN BEACH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RECREATIONAL FACILITIES INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN MARTIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MARTIN COUNTY

This agenda item seeks Board of County Commissioners' consideration and approval to enter an Interlocal Agreement with the Martin County School Board. The purpose of the agreement is to formalize public access and use of the recreational facilities at Jensen Beach Elementary School. The proposed agreement will clarify roles, responsibilities, and maintenance obligations for both parties, ensuring efficient management and shared benefits for the community.

Agenda Item: 25-1106

This item was approved.

PUBLIC WORKS

CNST-2 ADOPT A RESOLUTION DELEGATING AUTHORITY TO APPROVE, ACCEPT DEDICATIONS, AND AMEND TEXTUAL COMPONENTS OF PLATS

This is a request to adopt a Resolution that: delegates the Board's authority to approve plats, accept dedications of land pursuant to plats, and execute any documents necessary related to plats to the County Administrator; and updates the textual components of plats.

Agenda Item: 25-1134

RESOLUTION NO. 25-7.15

At the request of Chair Heard, Deputy County Attorney Elyse Elder provided the administrative changes to the Board. County Administrator Don Donaldson assisted with Board questions.

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

BOARD AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

B&C-1 REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST UNDER SECTION 112.313(7)(A), FLORIDA STATUTES FOR APPOINTMENT OF TRAVIS WADDELL TO THE RIO NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

This item seeks to waive the conflict of interest for Travis Waddell, whose businesses Breinar Construction and Freedom Waste Services, have contractual relationships with Martin County. Mr. Waddell has applied for reappointment to the Rio Neighborhood Advisory Committee. Florida law authorizes the Board of County Commissioners to waive this conflict by a two-thirds vote pursuant to Section 112.313(12), Florida Statutes.

Agenda Item: 25-1105

RESOLUTION NO. 25-7.16

Office of Community Development Director Susan Kores introduced the item to the Board. Assistant County Attorney Frank Moehrle presented the item to the Board. County Administrator Don Donaldson and County Attorney Sarah Woods assisted with Board questions.

MOTION: A motion was made by Vice Chair Ciampi, seconded by Commissioner Vargas, to waive Travis Waddell's conflict of interest. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Agenda Item: 25-1105

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Vargas, seconded by Vice Chair Ciampi, to appoint Travis Waddell to the Rio NAC. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

DEPARTMENTAL

ADMINISTRATION

DEPT-1 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: 25-1079

County Administrator Don Donaldson presented the item to the Board. Assistant County Administrator Matthew Graham assisted with Board questions.

MOTION: A motion was made by Vice Chair Ciampi, seconded by Commissioner Hetherington, to select Denise Nieman to complete the County Attorney Selection Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

WORKSHOP

**WORK-1 BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026
BUDGET WORKSHOP**

The Budget Workshop is scheduled for Monday, July 21 and if necessary, Tuesday, July 22. The purpose of the workshop is to establish the tentative millage. The tentative millage will be set at the end of the day, unless the meeting continues into Tuesday, July 22.

Agenda Item: 25-0695

County Administrator Don Donaldson provided an introduction to the fiscal year 2025/2026 budget. OMB Director Stephanie Merle provided an overview of the tentative budget. Budget & Fiscal Operations Coordinator Tracy Hurt assisted with Board questions.

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

OMB Director Stephanie Merle presented the Constitutional Officers budget.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Martin County Sheriff John Budensiek presented the tentative budget to the Board. Chief Financial Officer Kevin Youngblood assisted with Board questions.

MOTION: A motion was made by Vice Chair Ciampi, seconded by Commissioner Hetherington, for tentative approval of the Sheriff's Office budget. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 1 - Commissioner Vargas

Agenda Item: 25-0695

SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

Supervisor of Elections Vicky Davis presented the tentative budget to the Board and thanked staff for their support. General Services Director Sean Donahue assisted with Board questions.

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Hetherington, seconded by Vice Chair Ciampi, for tentative approval of the Supervisor of Elections budget. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Agenda Item: 25-0695

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER

Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller Carolyn Timmann presented the tentative budget to the Board.

MOTION: A motion was made by Vice Chair Ciampi, seconded by Commissioner Capps, for tentative approval of the Clerk of Court, Property Appraiser, and Tax Collector budgets. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Agenda Item: 25-0695

STATE JUDICIAL/ STATE AGENCIES

State Attorney Diamond Litty presented the tentative budget to the Board.

MOTION: A motion was made by Vice Chair Ciampi, seconded by Commissioner Capps, to approve the State Judicial/State Agencies tentative budget. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Agenda Item: 25-0695

ADMINISTRATION

Assistant County Administrator George Stokus presented the tentative budget to the Board. County Administrator Don Donaldson assisted with Board questions.

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Capps, seconded by Vice Chair Ciampi, for tentative approval of Administration's budget. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 1 - Commissioner Vargas

Agenda Item: 25-0695

AIRPORT

Airport Director Andrew McBean presented the Airport's tentative budget to the Board. County Administrator Don Donaldson assisted with Board questions.

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Hetherington, seconded by

Vice Chair Ciampi, for tentative approval of the Airport's budget. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Agenda Item: 25-0695

BUILDING

Director Jeff Dougherty presented the Building Departments tentative budget to the Board. County Administrator Don Donaldson and General Services Director Sean Donahue assisted with Board questions.

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Hetherington, seconded by Vice Chair Ciampi, for tentative approval of the Building Department's budget. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Agenda Item: 25-0695

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

OMB Director Stephanie Merle introduced the tentative budget to the Board. County Administrator Don Donaldson, Assistant County Administrator George Stokus, and General Services Director Sean Donahue assisted with Board questions.

Chair Heard addressed the urgent need for a new Public Works facility. The Board discussed a new facility and potential locations. County Administrator Don Donaldson stated staff will bring an item back to address potential solutions.

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Capps, seconded by Vice Chair Ciampi, to approve the tentative Capital Improvement Plan budget. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 1 - Commissioner Vargas

Agenda Item: 25-0695

COMMISSION MSTU

OMB Director Stephanie Merle presented the tentative budget to the Board.

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Hetherington, seconded by Commissioner Capps, for tentative approval of the budget for Commission MSTU as presented. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Agenda Item: 25-0695

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Office of Community Development Director Susan Kores presented the tentative budget to the Board.

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Hetherington, seconded by Vice Chair Ciampi, for tentative approval of the Office of Community Development's budget. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 1 - Commissioner Vargas

Agenda Item: 25-0695

COUNTY ATTORNEY

County Attorney Sarah Woods presented the tentative budget to the Board.

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

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

Nay: 1 - Commissioner Vargas

Agenda Item: 25-0695

FIRE RESCUE

Fire Rescue Chief Chad Cianciulli and Fire Rescue Administrator Matt Resch presented the tentative budget to the Board.

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

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

Nay: 1 - Commissioner Vargas

Agenda Item: 25-0695

GENERAL SERVICES

General Services Director Sean Donahue presented the tentative budget to the Board.

MOTION: A motion was made by Vice Chair Ciampi, seconded by Commissioner Hetherington, for tentative approval of General Services budget. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Agenda Item: 25-0695

GROWTH MANAGEMENT

Growth Management Director Paul Schilling presented the tentative budget to the Board.

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

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

Agenda Item: 25-0695

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLAN

Chief Information Officer Erika Sinclair presented the tentative budget to the Board. County Administrator Don Donaldson assisted with Board questions.

MOTION: A motion was made by Vice Chair Ciampi, seconded by Commissioner Capps, to approve the tentative budget for Information Technology and Technology Investment Plan. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Agenda Item: 25-0695

LIBRARY

Library Director Jennifer Salas presented the tentative budget to the Board. Deputy Library Director Richard Reilly assisted with Board questions.

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Hetherington, seconded by Vice Chair Ciampi, for tentative approval of the Library's budget. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Agenda Item: 25-0695

PARKS AND RECREATION

Parks and Recreation Director Kevin Abbate presented the tentative budget to the Board.

MOTION: A motion was made by Vice Chair Ciampi, seconded by Commissioner Hetherington, to approve the tentative budget for Parks and Recreation. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Agenda Item: 25-0695

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Director Jim Gorton presented the tentative budget to the Board.

MOTION: A motion was made by Vice Chair Ciampi, seconded by Commissioner Capps, to approve Public Works tentative budget. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Agenda Item: 25-0695

UTILITIES AND SOLID WASTE

Utilities and Solid Waste Director Sam Amerson presented the tentative budget to the Board.

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Capps, seconded by Commissioner Hetherington, for tentative approval of Utilities and Solid Waste budget. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Agenda Item: 25-0695

NON-DEPARTMENTAL

OMB Director Stephanie Merle presented the tentative budget to the Board. Assistant County Administrator George Stokus assisted with Board questions.

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Capps, seconded by Commissioner Hetherington, for tentative approval of the Non-Departmental budget. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 1 - Commissioner Vargas

Agenda Item: 25-0695

SET TENTATIVE MILLAGE

OMB Director Stephanie Merle presented the tentative millage to the Board.

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Capps, seconded by Commissioner Hetherington, to approve the FY 2025/2026 tentative budget; and set the tentative millage rate for Countywide Taxing Authority at 6.5614%, the MSTUs at 3.3571% (total Countywide and MSTUs 9.9185), and all non-countywide MSTUs at .4760%. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 1 - Commissioner Vargas

PUBLIC - PLEASE LIMIT COMMENTS TO THREE MINUTES.

There were none at this time.

ADJOURN

The Board of County Commissioners July 21, 2025 meeting adjourned at 5:31 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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