BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

DRAFT

6/9/2026 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, 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 ~ Michael Drost, U.S. Marine & Veterans Services Manager

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Hetherington, seconded by Commissioner Capps, to approve the agenda. 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 Board is asked to present proclamations declaring Lupus Awareness Month and declaring May 2026 as Mental Health Awareness Month in Martin County, Florida.

Agenda Item: 26-0784

Communications Manager Laura Beaupre presented the proclamation to the Board.

New Horizons of the Treasure Coast & Okeechobee CEO Gregory Jackson accepted the proclamation declaring May 2026 as Mental Health Awareness Month.

COMMENTS

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

Doug Farley spoke regarding the importance of implementing quiet zones and barriers at rail crossings.

Missy Harris requested that the Board reinstate 'so help me God' back into the oaths.

Derek Powell read an email for the record regarding the impact of a neighboring development to his property. He suggested having a meeting with all involved parties.

Chair Heard acknowledged Mr. Powell's comment; she advised she will meet with Mr. Powell and the County Engineer.

Yamila Rollan Escalona (Executive Director of Yaya Por Vida) spoke regarding issues effecting the unhoused population and those suffering with substance abuse.

Maureen Kielian (Founder of Southeast Florida Recovery Advocates) advocated for those suffering from substance addictions and the unhoused population. She also addressed HB1365.

Victoria Blake (Volunteer for Tent City Helpers) shared scripture and spoke about finding solutions for the unhoused in the County. She asked the Board to consider an agenda item on this topic.

Scott Butler addressed the impacts of dredging on the waterways. He advocated for safer dredging practices.

Angela Harrison (Tent City Helpers) provided comparative statistics to the Board concerning incarceration versus the cost to shelter unhoused individuals.

Angela Rantinella (Hutchinson Island Preservation Initiative) expressed concerns regarding the impacts of dredging to the reefs; she urged the Board to halt dredging until damage can be accessed.

Dottie Lanci thanked the Board for their governance and addressed the impacts of dredging on the reef.

Kathy Ahearn (LAHIA Volunteer) advocated for the Board's help to find viable solutions to assist the unhoused population.

John Dial spoke regarding Derek Powell, the dredging project (R&P-1), and reconsideration of the P3 contract for the operations center. Mr. Dial suggested other methods for public input besides 3 minute public comment at the Board meetings.

Commissioners

AM

Commissioner Vargas addressed public comment concerns on dredging and reef damage. She announced the completion of a 4 mile beach project and receipt of an award from The American Shore and Beach Preservation Association. She also shared she received the Gold Level award from the Master Gardeners and encouraged residents to utilize their services.

Chair Heard asked staff to bring forward information regarding the Property Tax legislation.

Vice Chair Ciampi requested that staff initiate social media friendly public outreach, to provide necessary information to residents on the centralized maintenance facility building. He also requested that County staff begin discussions with Brightline's leadership on potentially changing the station's location to the County owned fairgrounds.

Commissioner Hetherington stated she supports continuing Brightline conversations. She also addressed public comments made by Kathy Ahearn and Missy Harris.

Chair Heard confirmed she is amenable to evaluating all options for the Brightline station.

PM

Commissioner Vargas commented and shared her opposition regarding the P3 operations center. County Attorney Elysse Elder and County Administrator Don Donaldson assisted with Board questions.

Vice Chair Ciampi directed staff to bring forward an agenda item on the operations center, with a historical recap and have bond counsel and all pertinent staff in attendance.

Vice Chair Ciampi invited residents to attend the last music in park for the season on June 20th and to Operation 300's Annual Frog Man swim and 5k run.

County Administrator

AM

There were none at this time.

PM

OMB Director Stephanie Merle presented an update regarding the Property Tax Legislation to the Board. County Administrator Don Donaldson assisted with Board questions.

The Board discussed the proposed legislation and potential impacts to the County. The Board directed staff to prepare a hot topics section on the County's website, with an analysis, if ad valorem tax is changed, comparing the impacts with and without a tax shift.

The following member of the public addressed the Board regarding this issue: Laverne Williams.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Hetherington, seconded by Commissioner Capps, to approve the consent agenda. 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: 26-0569

This item was approved.

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 May 4 and May 24, 2026. 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: 26-0575

This item was approved.

CNST-3 BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION MINUTES TO BE APPROVED

The Board is asked to approve minutes from the April 7 and 21, 2026 regular meetings.

Agenda Item: 26-0935

This item was approved.

CNST-4 **ADOPT A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING NATIONAL MOSQUITO CONTROL AWARENESS WEEK IN MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

The Board is asked to adopt a proclamation recognizing National Mosquito Control Awareness Week in Martin County, Florida.

Agenda Item: 26-0718

This item was approved.

CNST-5 **ADOPT A PROCLAMATION DECLARING JULY 2026 AS PARKS AND RECREATION MONTH IN MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

The Board is asked to adopt a proclamation declaring July 2026 as Parks and Recreation Month in Martin County, Florida that will be presented at the June 23, 2026 meeting.

Agenda Item: 26-0877

This item was approved.

CNST-6 **ADOPT A PROCLAMATION DECLARING NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK IN MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

The Board is asked to adopt a proclamation declaring National Garden Week in Martin County, Florida.

Agenda Item: 26-0930

This item was approved.

CNST-7 **ADOPT PROCLAMATIONS COMMENDING SAVANNAH FLOREA, KRISTIN LANGE, SAMANTHA FLOREA, ALLIE SLAVENS, MARISSA DADKO, AND SARINA DADKO UPON THE ACHIEVEMENT OF EAGLE SCOUT**

The Board extends greetings and congratulations to scouts achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

Agenda Item: 26-0934

This item was approved.

CNST-8 **CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY LICENSING BOARD APPOINTMENT**

After solicitation of applicants due to a member resigning, the Board is asked to make the necessary appointment to the Construction Industry Licensing Board.

Agenda Item: 26-0728

RESOLUTION NO. 26-6.2

This item was approved.

CNST-9 **UPDATE ELECTION PRECINCTS AT THE REQUEST OF THE MARTIN COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS**

The Supervisor of Elections periodically amends voting precincts for a variety of reasons such as polling location changes, population adjustments, voting trends, among others. Chapter 101.001 FS provides a requirement that the Board of County Commissioners approve changes to precinct creation and boundaries.

Agenda Item: 26-0940

This item was approved.

BUILDING

CNST-10 UPDATED INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN MARTIN COUNTY AND THE VILLAGE OF INDIANTOWN FOR BUILDING OFFICIAL, INSPECTION AND PLAN REVIEW SERVICES

In April of 2024, Martin County and the Village of Indiantown entered into an Interlocal Agreement (IA) for Martin County to provide Building Official, Inspection and Plan Review services on an as-needed basis. The Interlocal Agreement is being updated to streamline the extension process and adjust for current costs to provide the services.

Agenda Item: 26-0927

This item was approved.

PUBLIC WORKS

CNST-11 REQUEST TO INITIATE AN AMENDMENT TO THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP OF THE COMPREHENSIVE GROWTH MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR A 40-ACRE PARCEL OWNED BY MARTIN COUNTY ON SW PRATT-WHITNEY ROAD

This is a request to initiate a change to the future land use designation from Agricultural to Institutional Public Conservation on a 40-acre county-owned parcel. This property is in southern Martin County located on the east side of SW Pratt-Whitney Road approximately halfway between SW Bridge Road to the north and Jupiter-Indiantown Road to the south.

Agenda Item: 26-0871

RESOLUTION NO. 26-6.3

This item was approved.

CNST-12 ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING AND APPROVING A UTILITY EASEMENT FROM BRE THRONE MARTIN DOWNS VILLAGE CENTER LLC, ALONG SW MARTIN DOWNS BOULEVARD IN PALM CITY

This is a request for the adoption of a Resolution accepting and approving a Utility Easement from Bre Throne Martin Downs Village Center LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, to allow for water and sewer related services and equipment along SW Martin Downs Boulevard, near SW High Meadow Avenue, in Palm City.

Agenda Item: 26-0875

RESOLUTION NO. 26-6.4

This item was approved.

CNST-13 REQUEST THAT MARTIN COUNTY GRANT A UTILITY EASEMENT TO FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY (FPL) FOR ELECTRICAL UTILITY SERVICES ON COUNTY OWNED PROPERTY IN HOBE SOUND

FPL has requested approval of a Utility Easement for extension and upgrade of the electrical service to the existing go-kart track facilities on County-owned property, located along SE Bridge Road east of SE 138th Street and west of SE Otter Lake

Drive, in Hobe Sound.

Agenda Item: 26-0887

This item was approved.

CNST-14 ADOPT RESOLUTIONS AUTHORIZING TRAFFIC SIGNALS ON NW GREEN RIVER PARKWAY, SE WILLOUGHBY BOULEVARD, AND CR-A1A (SE DIXIE HIGHWAY)

The Board is asked to consider adopting resolutions to authorize the installation of an emergency traffic signal on NW Green River Parkway at the entrance to the City of Stuart's new Fire Station #3, a traffic signal on SE Willoughby Boulevard at the entrance to Martin County High School, and a traffic signal on CR-A1A (SE Dixie Highway) at SE Cross Rip Street.

Agenda Item: 26-0900

RESOLUTION NOs. 26-6.5 through 26-6.7

This item was approved.

CNST-15 ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING AND APPROVING UTILITY EASEMENTS FROM THE OWNERS OF 22 PARCELS ALONG NE OAK LANE DRIVE IN JENSEN BEACH

This is a request for the adoption of a Resolution accepting and approving 22 Utility Easements from property owners along NE Oak Lane Drive in Jensen Beach, to allow for the installation of water and sewer-related services and equipment serving the properties.

Agenda Item: 26-0907

RESOLUTION NO. 26-6.8

This item was approved.

CNST-16 ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ACQUISITION OF A PARCEL OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LAND LOCATED IN POINCIANA GARDENS, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL LANDS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE AND APPROVED BY THE BOARD

This is a request for adoption of a resolution approving the acquisition of a 0.204-acre parcel of environmentally sensitive land located within Poinciana Gardens in Hobe Sound. The subject parcel is owned by Nidia A. Vidal. The acquisition will be funded through the voter-approved ½ cent Sales Tax Referendum.

Agenda Item: 26-0915

RESOLUTION NO. 26-6.10

At the request of Commissioner Vargas, Real Property Manager Carla Segura presented the item to the Board. Environmental Senior Project Manager Michael Yustin and Senior Assistant County Attorney Sebastian Fox assisted with Board questions.

CNST-17 REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE REVISED LIST OF SPECIAL EVENTS REQUIRING ROAD CLOSURE(S) JULY 1ST, 2026 THROUGH JUNE 30TH, 2027

Staff requests that the Board of County Commissioners approve the revised list of Special Events Requiring Road Closure(s) from July 1st, 2026 through June 30th, 2027.

Agenda Item: 26-0928

This item was approved.

UTILITIES AND SOLID WASTE

CNST-18 RESOLUTION ADOPTING AND IMPLEMENTING THE WESTERN CORRIDOR WATER & SEWER EXTENSION PROJECT FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY PLAN AS REQUIRED BY STATE REVOLVING FUND CLEAN LOAN AGREEMENT WW430250

Board action is requested to adopt a resolution to implement the Western Corridor Water & Sewer Extension Project Fiscal Sustainability Plan as required by Section 8.12 of the Florida State Revolving Fund Loan Agreement WW430250.

Agenda Item: 26-0919

RESOLUTION NO. 26-6.9

This item was approved.

ADMINISTRATION

CNST-19 ADOPT A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING JUNE 19, 2026 AS JUNETEENTH FREEDOM DAY IN MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA

The Board is asked to adopt a proclamation recognizing June 19, 2026 as Juneteenth Freedom Day in Martin County, Florida.

Agenda Item: 26-0949

This item was approved.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

PH-1 PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE ADOPTION OF A FINAL ASSESSMENT RESOLUTION FOR THE LAKE GROVE WATER MAIN MUNICIPAL SERVICE BENEFIT UNIT

Board action is requested to adopt the final assessment resolution for the Lake Grove Water Main Municipal Service Benefit Unit to allow installation of water lines.

Agenda Item: 26-0863

RESOLUTION NO. 26-6.1

Utilities and Solid Waste Senior Project Manager David Duncan presented the item to the Board. Utilities and Solid Waste Technical Service Administrator Leo Repetti and Senior Assistant County Attorney Melissa Pietryzk assisted with Board questions.

Chair Heard solicited public comment; none were heard.

MOTION: A motion was made by Vice Chair Ciampi, seconded by Commissioner Vargas, 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

PH-2 **LEGISLATIVE PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER ADOPTION OF COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT (CPA) 25-03, P3 PUBLIC FACILITY WITH CLINIC FLUM, A FUTURE LAND USE MAP AMENDMENT**

This is a request by the Martin County Board of County Commissioners for a small-scale amendment to the Future Land Use Map, to consider adoption of a change from General Institutional to Commercial Office/Residential (COR) on a parcel of land consisting of approximately 2.66 acres. The subject property is located north of SE Ruhnke Street and east of SE Willoughby Boulevard in unincorporated Martin County.

Agenda Item: 26-0850

ORDINANCE NO. 1275

Growth Management Senior Planner Jenna Knobbe presented the item to the Board. Growth Management Comprehensive Planning Administrator Clyde Dulin and Senior Assistant County Attorney Sebastian Fox assisted with Board questions.

Chair Heard solicited public comment; none were heard.

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Capps, seconded by Commissioner Vargas, 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 THE P3 PUBLIC FACILITY WITH CLINIC REZONING**

This application is a request by the Board of County Commissioners to change the zoning district from PS-2, Public Service, to CO, Commercial Office, on an approximately 2.66-acre parcel located north of SE Ruhnke Street, east of SE Willoughby Boulevard, and south of the Martin County Public Safety Complex.

Agenda Item: 26-0864

RESOLUTION NO. 26-6.11

Growth Management Senior Planner Jenna Knobbe presented the item to the Board. Growth Management Comprehensive Planning Administrator Clyde Dulin and Senior Assistant County Attorney Sebastian Fox assisted with Board questions.

Chair Heard solicited public comment; none were heard.

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Capps, seconded by Commissioner Vargas, 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

REQUEST AND PRESENTATION

R&P-1 **UNITED STATE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS (USACE) AND THE NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR (NFS) THE FLORIDA INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT (FIND) FOR THE INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY (IWW) & OKEECHOBEE WATERWAY (OWW) MAINTENANCE DREDGING PROJECT WILL PROVIDE A PRESENTATION**

USACE & FIND will update on the ongoing IWW/OWW Crossroads dredging project with placement in the St. Lucie Inlet.

Agenda Item: 26-0946

USACE Major Cory Bell introduced the item to the Board and assisted with questions. USACE Acting Chief and Project Manager Ashley Fountain provided the presentation to the Board. Coastal Program Manager Jessica Garland shared project updates. Cheryl Miller with Coastal Eco Group provided an updated on the reefs. County Administrator Don Donaldson and FIND Executive Director Janet Zimmerman assisted with Board questions.

The following member of the public addressed the Board regarding this item: Mark Perry.

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: 26-0585

RESOLUTION NOs. 26-6.12 and 26-6.13

OMB Director Stephanie Merle presented the items to the Board.

The following items were approved: (1) FTA FY22 Section 5307 Urbanized Formula Grant and (2) Florida Statewide Response for Opioid Abatement Funds.

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: 26-0590

Procurement Supervisor Tasha Sapp presented the items to the Board.

The following items was approved: (1) Disaster Recovery Engineering Services, (2) Disaster Debris Monitoring, and (3) Aviation Planning & Engineering Services.

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

PARKS AND RECREATION

DEPT-3 **PARKS AND RECREATION SPECIAL FACILITY REVENUE UPDATE**

Parks and Recreation will update the Board of County Commissioners on the Department’s special facilities, highlighting their role as revenue-generating assets support enhanced services and long-term financial sustainability. The Department’s strategy focuses on increasing revenue, reducing subsidy reliance, and building reserves for maintenance and capital needs. Financial data presented is unaudited and sourced from the County’s financial system.

Agenda Item: 26-0938

Parks and Recreation Director Kevin Abbate provided the presentation to the Board. General Services Director Sean Donahue and County Administrator Don Donaldson assisted with Board questions.

PUBLIC - PLEASE LIMIT COMMENTS TO THREE MINUTES.

There were none.

ADJOURN

The Board of County Commissioners June 9, 2026 meeting adjourned at 1:36 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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