

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD, JANUARY 7, 2020

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Highlands County Board of County Commission Chambers at 600 S. Commerce Ave., Sebring, Florida, with the following members present:

Commissioner James L. Brooks
Commissioner Don Elwell
Commissioner Arlene Tuck

Commissioner William R. Handley
Commissioner R. Greg Harris

Also present: Randy Vosburg, County Administrator; Joy Carmichael, County Attorney; Jerome Kaszubowski, Senior Director of Business Services, Clerk of Courts; and Pamela Gamez, Deputy Clerk.

2. **INVOCATION**

The meeting opened with a prayer led by Ed Sager, with the Highlands Grace Reformed Church.

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Brooks.

4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Veterans Advisory Board will meet on Tuesday, January 7, 2020 at 1:00 p.m., in the Veterans Services Office Conference Room, 7209 S. George Blvd., Sebring, FL.

The Construction Licensing, Enforcement & Appeals Board will meet on Tuesday, January 7, 2020 at 7:00 p.m., in the Board room of the Highlands County Government Center, 600 S. Commerce Ave., Sebring, FL.

The 2019 Value Adjustment Board will meet on Thursday, January 9, 2020 at 9:30 a.m., in the Boardroom, 600 S. Commerce Ave., Sebring, FL.

The 2019 Value Adjustment Board will meet on Thursday, January 9, 2020 at 11:15 a.m., in the Boardroom, 600 S. Commerce Ave., Sebring, FL.

A Public Hearing of the Highlands County Code Enforcement Special Magistrate Pamela T. Karlson will be held at 1:30 p.m., on January 9, 2020, in the Kelly Courtroom of the Highlands County Courthouse, 430 South Commerce Avenue, Sebring, FL.

The Historic Preservation Commission will hold a regular meeting on Thursday, January 9, 2020 at 2:30 p.m., in the Engineering Conference Room, 505 S. Commerce Ave., Sebring, FL.

The 2019 Value Adjustment Board will meet on Friday, January 10, 2020 at 9:30 a.m., in the Boardroom, 600 S. Commerce Ave., Sebring, FL.

A Public Hearing of the Highlands County Zoning Board of Adjustment Planning & Zoning Commission & the Local Planning Agency will be held at 3:00 p.m., on January 14, 2020, in the Boardroom of the Highlands County Government Center, 600 S. Commerce Avenue, Sebring, FL.

The Veterans Advisory Board will meet on Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 1:00 p.m., in the Veterans Services Office Conference Room, 7209 S. George Blvd., Sebring, FL.

The Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group will meet on January 15, 2020 at 8:00 a.m., in Room #1 of the Bert J. Harris, Jr. Agricultural Center, 4509 George Blvd., Sebring, FL.

The Children’s Services Council will meet on Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at 7:30 p.m., in the Engineering Training Room, 505 S. Commerce Ave., Sebring, FL.

The Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinator Board will meet on Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at 1:15 p.m., at the Desoto Family Service Center, 310 W. Whidden Street, Arcadia, FL.

5. CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

Jerome Kaszubowski, Senior Director of Business Services for the Clerk of Courts, stated that the Clerk of Courts wished everyone a blessed and prosperous new year.

6. RECOGNITIONS, PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

No further items.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Brooks made a motion and Commissioner Harris seconded the motion, to move to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Upon roll call, all Commissioners voted aye. The motion carried.

A. Request approval to pay all duly authorized bills January 7, 2020. See Check Report file.

GENERAL FUND	7,008,204.48
COUNTY TRANSPORT TRUST	21,195.14
E911 OPERATIONS FUND	91,393.34
TOURIST DEV TRUST FUND	6,525.00
FIRE INSPECTION	119.77
SEBRING PARKWAY MAINT	435.95
STATE COURT FACILITIES TF	270.00
COURT TECH 28.24 (12)(E)1	4,588.05
BUILDING FUND	365.24
FIRE ASSESSMENT FUND	3,463.26
SOLID WASTE	15,500.11

B. Request approval of a one (1) year renewal of the contract for ITB-19-004, between Highlands County and Florida Transport Services, Inc., for shell hauling. See Florida Transport Services, Inc. file.

C. Request to accept into record the Combined Financial Statements and Independent Auditor’s Report for Fiscal Year Ended (FYE) June 30, 2019 and 2018 for Peace River Center for Personal Development, Inc. See Peace River Center file.

D. Request to accept into record the Audited Financial Statements and Independent Auditor’s Report for Fiscal Year Ended (FYE) June 30, 2019 with Comparative Totals for June 30, 2018 for Tri-County Human Services, Inc. See Tri-County Human Services, Inc. file.

E. Request to rename Casablanca Drive to Casablanca Circle. See SMB 135 Page 51.

- F. **Request approval of Budget Amendment 19-20-026 and Resolution to allocate funds to replace (4) OEM chiller coils at the County Jail facility and to approve the Request for Payment of Invoice Without a Purchase Order (PO).** *See Res. Book 30 Page 121 & SMB 135 Page 52.*
- G. **Request approval of Budget Amendment 19-20-028 and associated Resolution to appropriate funds within the Hospital District Board Grant Award for fiscal year 19/20.** *See Res. Book 30 Page 122 & SMB 135 Page 53.*
- H. **Request approval of Budget Amendment 19-20-033 and Resolution to remove excess budget due to reclassification of expenses into prior fiscal year.** *See Res. Book 30 Page 123 & SMB 135 Page 54.*
- I. **Request approval of Budget Amendment 19-20-034 for Project 18043, the Mental Health Program Project Improvement.** *See SMB 135 Page 55.*

8. CONSENT AGENDA (2): Request approval to pay all bills with voting conflicts.

Commissioner Elwell declared a conflict of interest due to a payment being made to Alan Jay, his current employer. A Memorandum of Voting Conflict form was submitted to the Clerk to become part of the permanent record.

Commissioner Harris made a motion and Commissioner Brooks seconded the motion, to move to approve the request to pay all bills with voting conflicts.

Upon roll call, all Commissioners voted aye, except Commissioner Elwell, who abstained. The motion carried.

9. PUBLIC HEARING

- A. **Joedene Thayer, Planning Supervisor: Public hearing to consider adoption of Large Scale Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Amendment CPA-19-564LS, for approximately 19.42 acres from High Density Residential (RH) to Commercial (C) and amend the text of the Future Land Use Element of the Highlands County 2030 Comprehensive Plan.**

Joedene Thayer, Planning Supervisor, and Sandra Vazquez, Planner I, presented the request. This public hearing was properly advertised and a proof of publication was submitted to the Clerk to become part of the permanent record. Ms. Thayer questioned if any of the Commissioners held ex parte communications concerning this hearing. All Commissioners stated no. Ms. Thayer read the caption of the proposed ordinance into the record. Attorney Bart Allen, representing the applicant, addressed the Board.

Chairman Handley opened the floor to the public. Input was received from Michelle Gresham and Richard Szoke.

Commissioner Brooks made a motion and Commissioner Elwell seconded the motion, to move to approve and adopt by Ordinance, CPA-19-564LS, amending the Future Land Use Map of the Highlands County Comprehensive Plan for approximately 19.42 acres from High Density Residential (RH) to Commercial (C), and amending the text of the Future Land Use Element of the Highlands County 2030 Comprehensive Plan, referencing the mandatory findings of fact; and transmitting CPA-19-564LS to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity for expedited state review.

Upon roll call, all Commissioners voted aye, except Commissioner Tuck, who voted nay. The motion carried. **See Comprehensive Plan Amendment file & Ordinance Book 18.**

B. Public Hearing to consider approval of Lifefleet Southeast Inc., d/b/a American Medical Response application for a Class 2 Basic Life Support Ambulance and Class 3 Advanced Life Support Ambulance Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity.

Tim Eures, Deputy Chief HCFR, presented the request. This public hearing was properly advertised and a proof of publication was submitted to the Clerk to become part of the permanent record.

Commissioner Elwell made a motion and Commissioner Harris seconded the motion, to move to approve the application for a Class 2 Basic Life Support Ambulance and Class 3 Advanced Life Support Ambulance Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for Lifefleet Southeast Inc., d/b/a American Medical Response.

Upon roll call, all Commissioners voted aye. The motion carried. ***See American Medical Response file.***

C. Public Hearing to consider approval of Affordable Transport, Inc. application for a Class 3 Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity.

Tim Eures, Deputy Chief HCFR, presented the request. This public hearing was properly advertised and a proof of publication was submitted to the Clerk to become part of the permanent record.

Commissioner Harris made a motion and Commissioner Brooks seconded the motion, to move to approve the application for a Class 3 Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for Affordable Transport, Inc.

Public input was received from John Nelson.

Upon roll call, all Commissioners voted aye. The motion carried. ***See Affordable Transport, Inc. file.***

D. Public Hearing to consider approval of Atlantic Palm Beach Ambulance d/b/a AMR application for a Class 1 and 3 Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity.

Tim Eures, Deputy Chief HCFR, presented the request. This public hearing was properly advertised and a proof of publication was submitted to the Clerk to become part of the permanent record.

Commissioner Brooks made a motion and Commissioner Elwell seconded the motion, to move to approve the application for a Class 1 and 3 Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for Atlantic Palm Beach Ambulance, d/b/a AMR.

Upon roll call, all Commissioners voted aye. The motion carried. ***See American Medical Response file.***

10. ACTION AGENDA

Commissioner Elwell made a motion and Commissioner Harris seconded the motion, to move to set the action agenda as presented.

Upon roll call, all Commissioners voted aye. The motion carried.

A. Clinton Howerton, Jr., County Engineer: Request approval of the construction contract between Highlands County and Ajax Paving Industries of Florida, LLC., for the E. Interlake Boulevard Resurfacing project.

Clinton Howerton, Jr., County Engineer, JD Langford, Assistant County Engineer, and Stan Merantus, Project Manager, presented the request and addressed concerns raised by the Commission.

Commissioner Tuck made a motion and Commissioner Harris seconded the motion, to move to approve the construction contract between Highlands County and Ajax Paving Industries of Florida, LLC., for the E. Interlake Boulevard Resurfacing project.

Upon roll call, all Commissioners voted aye. The motion carried. **See *Ajax Paving Industries of Florida, LLC file.***

B. Request approval of Budget Amendment 19-20-035 and Resolution for FYE 18-19 rollover project adjustments and corrections into FY 19-20.

David Nitz, OMB Manager, presented the request.

Commissioner Elwell made a motion and Commissioner Harris seconded the motion, to move to approve Budget Amendment 19-20-035 and Resolution for FYE 18-19 rollover project adjustments and corrections into FY 19-20.

Upon roll call, all Commissioners voted aye. The motion carried. **See *Res. Book 30 Page 124 & SMB 135 Page 56.***

11. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR AND LEGAL

A. Joy Cook Carmichael, County Attorney: County Attorney File Log

Joy Carmichael, County Attorney, presented the County Attorney's file log and addressed concerns raised by the Commission. **See *SMB 135 Page 57.***

B. Randy Vosburg, County Administrator: Discussion concerning the Board's priorities for 2020.

Randy Vosburg, County Administrator, presented the list of priorities provided by the Commission. After discussion, the Commission concurred to keep and work on the following priorities:

- Countywide Road Program
- Reasonable, standard fire house design for entire county/progress on development of Fire/EMS department
- Establish best route for MCORE through Highlands County/Plan for east/west connectors
- Sell Highlands Regional Hospital and use funds to establish endowment for non-profits
- Develop a plan of action for utility extensions to support economic development
- Work as Budget Liaison – build reserves to 3.5 months – plan for a millage reduction in future years
- Hurricane shelter upgrades – including pet-friendly shelter
- Planning for family-oriented tourism asset, utilizing the 4th penny from tourism tax
- Support Administration in designing and preparing a succession plan
- Work to streamline county bureaucracy to protect and grow economy; encourage economic development to focus on grants to retain and expand existing business, also keep an eye on new opportunities

Commissioner Harris questioned if they should add recycling to the list. The Commission discussed the issue and stated that they should continue working with the current hauler and educate constituents. After discussion, the Commission concurred to add recycling to the list of priorities. Mr. Vosburg stated that staff will come back to the Board on how these priorities will be updated. **See *SMB 135 Page 58.***

C. Randy Vosburg, County Administrator: Pending Items/Project Report Update

Mr. Vosburg presented the County's updated list of pending items/projects and addressed concerns raised by the Commission. **See SMB 135 Page 59.**

12. CITIZENS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Mr. John Nelson came before the Commission to request that the Board consider for adoption of a resolution declaring support of both, the United States and the State of Florida Constitutions. The Commission discussed the issue. Commissioner Tuck stated that the Commission should hold another meeting on this issue and provided an article from the Tampa Bay Times. Commissioner Elwell provided a proposed resolution that supports both constitutions and requested to hold an evening meeting for hear this issue. **See SMB 135 Page 60.**

Ms. Michelle Gresham came before the Commission to address her concerns with the hiring of a new attorney and commented on the recycling contract. Ms. Gresham also stated that she is in support of holding an evening meeting for the resolution mentioned above.

Mr. Dale Phlug came before the Commission to address his support of a resolution supporting both, the United States and the State of Florida Constitutions.

Mr. Robert Gilmore came before the Commission to also address his support of a resolution supporting both, the United States and the State of Florida Constitutions.

Mr. Kelly Noonan came before the Commission to request that the Board hold an evening meeting where constituents can provide their input regarding this Second Amendment Sanctuary Resolution.

Ms. Gingerlee Mitchelllindo came before the Commission to address her concerns with the resolution that is being mentioned and addressed the importance of educating the public on this issue.

13. COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Elwell stated that he would like to have the Board Attorney further review the proposed resolution that supports both, the United States and the State of Florida Constitutions, and requested to hold an evening meeting on this issue on February 4, 2020.

Commissioner Tuck made a motion and Commissioner Elwell seconded the motion, to move to hold the February 4, 2020 Regular Meeting at 5:30 p.m., and to add a proposed resolution to the agenda.

Public input was received from James Spangler.

Upon roll call, all Commissioners voted aye. The motion carried.

The Commission concurred to have the County Attorney review the version of the resolution that will be considered.

14. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 11:02 a.m.