

**Official Minutes of
MARION COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

June 3, 2025

CALL TO ORDER:

The Marion County Board of County Commissioners (MCBCC) met in regular session in Commission Chambers at 9:02 a.m. on Tuesday June 3, 2025 at the Marion County Governmental Complex located in Ocala, Florida.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The meeting opened with invocation by Commissioner McClain and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of our Country.

9:00 AM ROLL CALL:

Upon roll call the following members were present: Chairman Kathy Bryant, District 2; Vice-Chairman Carl Zalak, III, District 4; Commissioner Matthew McClain, District 3; and Commissioner Michelle Stone, District 5. Commissioner Craig Curry, District 1, was absent due to a prior commitment. Also present were Clerk Gregory C. Harrell, County Attorney Matthew G. Minter, County Administrator Mounir Bouyounes, Assistant County Administrator (ACA) Angel Roussel, ACA Tracy Straub, and ACA Amanda Tart.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chairman Bryant addressed upcoming scheduled meetings as listed on the Commission Calendar (Item 13.2.1).

1. PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Upon motion of Commissioner Stone, seconded by Commissioner Zalak, the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) approved and/or ratified the following:

1.1. PRESENTATION - Recognition of the 2025 Citizens Academy Graduating Class - Bobbi Perez, Public Relations Director (Approval and Presentation)

Public Relations Director Bobbi Perez presented the following recommendation:

Description/Background: On March 6, 2025, the Marion County Board of County Commissioners opened its thirteenth year of the Citizens Academy program. This 11-week program offers citizens a behind-the-scenes look at many Marion County services and departments.

By participating in the academy this year, citizens learned about the following Marion County departments in the sessions that were held every Thursday morning from 8:00 a.m. to noon:

- March 6 - Administration, Public Relations, Procurement Services, and Human Resources
- March 13 - Animal Services and Solid Waste
- March 20 - Building Safety and Growth Services
- March 27 - Veterans Services and Extension Services
- April 3 - Parks & Recreation, Airport and Southeastern Livestock Pavilion
- April 10 - Office of the County Engineer and Municipal Services
- April 18 - Facilities Management and Tourist Development

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- April 24 - Community Services and Public Library
- May 1 - Public Safety Communications, 911 Management, Information Technology
- May 8 - Utilities
- May 15 - Fleet Management and Fire Rescue

Attached is a list of the graduates from this year's program, which represents all 28 of the 28 citizens who originally registered.

Budget/Impact: None.

Recommended Action: Motion for approval and presentation.

Public Relations Director Bobbi Perez introduced the 2025 graduating class of Citizens Academy, noting it is the 15th year of the program here in Marion County. She presented a brief video as seen on the overhead screens relating to the Citizens Academy.

Ms. Perez commented on the 3-month timeline of the program, which shows local residents how the government operates. She gave a brief overview of the Citizens Academy.

In response to Chairman Bryant, Ms. Escobar advised that her favorite department to visit was the library, noting she had never visited the library Headquarters – Ocala Public Library before. She stated her favorite Commissioner she met was Commissioner Zalak. Bill MacKrell, SW 59th Lane Road, commented on his experience with County leadership (County Administrator Mounir Bouyounes, ACAs and other various department heads) teaching him about Marion County's vision. He stated staff explained how tax dollars are utilized, such as long-range budgeting, capital improvements and many other services central to Marion County. Mr. MacKrell expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to participate in this program.

In response to Chairman Bryant, Mr. MacKrell opined his favorite department was Fleet Management because of his own experience with truck driving. He stated his favorite Commissioner he met was Commissioner Stone.

Ms. Perez presented the Citizens Academy graduates:

- Patrick Decavaignac
- Nancy Decavaignac
- James Williams
- John Elliot
- Denise Elliot
- Punkie Charbonneau
- Steven Sarkozky
- Brenda Hare
- Zenia Morales
- Lora Bailey
- Nadine Escobar
- Tony Giuffrida-Gaydas
- George Escobar
- Zara Torres
- William MacKrell
- Diane MacKrell
- Jamie Tardif
- Maria Conny Roman

- Sarah Gray
- David Cheek
- Valerie Hanchar
- Anita Williams
- Angie Rushing
- Abraham Rosenberg
- Kyle Morrison
- Jessi Mantilla
- Ellary Belote
- Deborah Smith
- Bertha Heredia
- Patricia Simko

Chairman Bryant questioned whether the graduates expected the budgeting process to be as lengthy as it is. She expressed her gratitude for Ms. Perez, the Public Relations team and other leaders who contribute to the program.

1.2. PROCLAMATION - Faith and Family Month - Louine Ek (Approval and Presentation)
The Board presented the Proclamation designating June 2025 as “Faith and Family Month” to Louine Ek and other members of the faith community.

Louine Ek, SW 59th Street, stated it is an honor to accept the Proclamation on behalf of those in the faith community, noting those individuals assume many different roles such as pastors, teachers, medical servicers and retirees. She expressed her gratitude in having an administration with leaders who share the same values in faith and family.

Chairman Bryant thanked everyone present for all the hard work they do within the community.

(Ed. Note: This matter was addressed again later in the meeting.)

1.3. PRESENTATION - Florida Department of Transportation Outreach Award for the Safety Matters Video Series - Rob Balmes, Director, Transportation Planning Organization (Presentation Only)

Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Director Rob Balmes presented the following recommendation:

Description/Background: Marion County, in partnership with the Ocala/Marion Transportation Planning Organization (TPO), created the Safety Matters initiative to remind the community of roadway safety. The Safety Matters Series is a community-driven effort dedicated to promoting roadway safety across Marion County. This collaborative initiative underscores the importance of protecting all roadway users, including drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists.

In partnership with key stakeholders, the Safety Matters initiative engages the community through education and awareness, reminding everyone of their shared responsibility in fostering safer roadways.

On May 9, 2025, the Ocala/Marion County Transportation Planning Organization and Marion County were awarded the Outreach Award at the Florida Department of Transportation Central Florida Safety Summit for their work on the Safety Matters Initiative.

Budget/Impact: None.

Recommended Action: Presentation only.

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It was noted for the record that TPO Director Balmes was not present to address this recommendation.

1.4. PROCLAMATION - Men's Health Month (Approval Only)

The Board approved the Proclamation declaring the month of June 2025 as "Men's Health Month".

1.5. PROCLAMATION - Eagle Scout Court of Honor - Patrick John Shields (Approval Only)

The Board approved the Proclamation congratulating Patrick John Shields upon attaining the status of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America organization.

2. AGENDA ITEM PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Reserved for comments related to items specifically listed on this agenda. Scheduled requests will be heard first and limited to five (5) minutes. Unscheduled requests will be limited to two (2) minutes. Citizens may contact Marion County Administration by 5:00 p.m. the Friday before the meeting at 352-438-2300 to request to speak or submit the request online at: www.marionfl.org.

Joseph Walker, SE 54th Place, Ocklawaha addressed the board regarding Agenda Item, 8.3 (request authorization to proceed with the filing of legal action for an abatement of a nuisance [remove unsafe (building/structure) on property owned by the estates of Christal Norris and Carl Norris). He commented on the condition of the subject property. Mr. Walker presented a corresponding map on the overhead screens.

Chairman Bryant clarified that Agenda Item 8.3, if approved, will allow the County Attorney to move forward with filing a lawsuit to remove the squatters from the property and remove the unsafe structures on the subject property.

Commissioner Zalak stated that property owners still have property rights and that the County has to pursue these issues one step at a time to get them cleaned up and in order. Commissioner Stone encouraged Mr. Walker to refer to Agenda Item, 14.5.1, which contains Code Enforcement Board (CEB) Minutes. She commented on the number of new and existing cases staff are currently working.

3. ADOPT THE FOLLOWING MINUTES: (4 Sets)

3.1. January 21, 2025

3.2. January 22, 2025

3.3. January 29, 2025 A

3.4. January 29, 2025 B

A motion was made by Commissioner Stone, seconded by Commissioner McClain, to adopt the meeting minutes of January 21, 22 and 29 (2 sets), 2025. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board (4-0).

4. CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS AND GOVERNMENTAL OR OUTSIDE AGENCIES:

4.1. Request Approval to Enter Into an Agreement Between the Fifth Judicial Circuit Court and Marion County Board of County Commissioners to Provide Funding for a Court Program Specialist I in Post Adjudication Expansion Drug Court (25-26-02) (Budget Impact - Neutral; \$78,575)

The Board considered the following recommendation from Trial Court Administrator Jeffrey Fuller, Court Administration:

Description/Background: Request approval to enter into an agreement between the Fifth Judicial Circuit Court and Marion County Board of County Commissioners to provide funding for a Court Program Specialist I Full Time Employee (FTE) in Post Adjudication Expansion Drug Court (25-26-02). The current agreement expires on June 30, 2025, and is being renewed. The Court will reimburse the County BOCC for this position upon receipt of invoices submitted to the Court's Contract Manager.

Budget/Impact: Neutral - \$78,575.88 in salaries and benefits as well as \$20,000 in operating expenses, which will be reimbursed.

Recommended Action: Approval to enter into the agreement between the Fifth Judicial Circuit Court and Marion County Board of County Commissioners to provide funding for a Court Program Specialist I FTE in Post Adjudication Expansion Drug Court.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stone, seconded by Commissioner McClain, to approve and enter into the agreement between the Fifth Judicial Circuit Court and Marion County Board of County Commissioners to provide funding for a Court Program Specialist I FTE in Post Adjudication Expansion Drug Court. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board (4-0).

4.2. Request Approval to Enter Into an Agreement Between the Fifth Judicial Circuit Court and Marion County Board of County Commissioners to Provide Funding for a Court Program Specialist I in Veterans Treatment Court (25-26-03) (Budget Impact - Neutral; \$77,671)

The Board considered the following recommendation from Trial Court Administrator Fuller, Court Administration:

Description/Background: Request approval to enter into an agreement between the Fifth Judicial Circuit Court and Marion County Board of County Commissioners to provide funding for a Court Program Specialist I Full Time Employee (FTE) in Veterans Treatment Court (25-26-03). The current agreement expires on June 30, 2025, and is being renewed. The Court will reimburse the County BOCC for this position upon receipt of invoices submitted to the Court's Contract Manager.

Budget/Impact: Neutral - \$77,671.90 in salaries and benefits as well as \$20,000 in operating expenses, which will be reimbursed.

Recommended Action: Approval to enter into the agreement between the Fifth Judicial Circuit Court and Marion County Board of County Commissioners to provide funding for a Court Program Specialist I FTE in Veterans Treatment Court (25-26-03).

A motion was made by Commissioner Stone, seconded by Commissioner McClain, to approve and enter into the agreement between the Fifth Judicial Circuit Court and Marion County Board of County Commissioners to provide funding for a Court Program Specialist I FTE in Veterans Treatment Court (25-26-03). The motion was unanimously approved by the Board (4-0).

5. CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT:

5.1. Budget Amendment

Clerk Harrell advised that Item 5.1.7 relates to Consent Agenda Item 7.2.1.

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Upon motion of Commissioner Stone, seconded by Commissioner McClain, the Board adopted the following Budget Amendment Resolutions transferring funds as presented by Clerk Harrell; as well as approving Items 7.2.1.

5.1.1. 25-R-165 - American Rescue Plan ERA2 Fund - Other Human Services - \$1,150,000

5.1.2.a. 25-R-166 - Budget Transfer from Law Enforcement Trust Fund to MSTU for Law Enforcement - \$2,000

5.1.2.b. 25-R-167 - Budget Transfer from Law Enforcement Trust Fund to MSTU for Law Enforcement - \$2,000

5.1.3. 25-R-168 - Fire, Rescue and EMS Fund - Fire Rescue Services - \$500,000

5.1.4. 25-R-169 - General Fund - Emergency Medical Services - \$125,000

5.1.5. 25-R-170 - General Fund - Finance and Administration - \$15,000

5.1.6. 25-R-171 - General Fund - Procurement Services - \$36,279

5.1.7. 25-R-172 - General Fund Grants - Emergency Solutions Program - \$151,235

5.1.8.a. 25-R-173 - Impact Fee Funds West - Multiple Departments - \$10,362

5.1.8.b. 25-R-174 - Impact Fee Funds East - Multiple Departments - \$10,362

5.1.9. 25-R-175 - Marion County Utility Fund - Utilities Water System - \$50,000

(Ed. Note: MSTU is the acronym for Municipal Services Taxing Unit and EMS is the acronym for Emergency Medical Services.)

5.2. Clerk of the Court Items

5.2.1. Budget Development Update and Presentation of Detailed Budget Workshop Schedule

Budget Director Audrey Fowler presented the following recommendation:

Description/Background: Update of Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget Development and the Presentation of the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget Workshop Schedule for Board Approval.

Budget/Impact: None.

Recommended Action: Motion to Approve Budget Workshop Schedule as Presented.

Clerk Harrell advised that the Budget process is a complex one that is a yearlong job. He stated he will be away at the Clerk's Statewide Conference during the next BCC meeting; therefore, he will not be present when the respective department budgets and Constitutional budgets are presented on the Agenda for the Board's consideration. Clerk Harrell advised that Budget Director Audrey Fowler and Finance Director Jennifer Cole will be at the Florida Government Finance Officers Association (FGFOA) Conference during the next BCC meeting, but Miguel Figueroa from the Budget department will be presenting the update for the Boards consideration. He stated there will be workshops in July where the Budget will be discussed further.

Clerk Harrell opined that the volatility of the market right now presents some unique challenges this year, which the County may not have dealt with before. He provided a brief overview of the many things being put in front of State Legislators that could put pressures on local governments and the way this Board funds their operations. Clerk Harrell advised that this will create discussions that look at how to honor and do right by the County's taxpayers and constituents, but also by the Staff and community members that are seeing inflation and cost of living present challenges in their own lives. He stated the fast growth of the County puts pressure on all departments and Constitutional Officer's operations, noting by law County Budgets and Constitutional Budgets are due to be

submitted by June 1st of every year. Clerk Harrell expressed his gratitude for Ms. Fowler, the Budget team, County Administrator Mounir Bouyounes and his fellow Constitutional Officers for having this submitted accordingly. He Commented on the importance of the dialogue that takes place between the Chairman, Property Appraiser and Constitutional Officers relating to property values for the upcoming budget cycle. Clerk Harrell stated the intricacies of this year are such that the State Legislation finished Session without having a state budget in place. He advised that the most recent news relates to a deal being reached and that State budget hearings are set for this week. This budget deal includes \$2,500,000,000.00 worth of recurring reductions in the State budget. Clerk Harrell advised that local government operations benefit from sales tax at the State level and State Shared Revenue, noting it contributed approximately \$40,000,000 last year to Marion County's Budget. He opined that it is unknown how this will be reflected in this year's Budget cycle with the \$2,250,000,000.00 of recurring revenue reduced, which reporting states includes \$350,000,000.00 in permanent sales tax exemptions. Clerk Harrell stated there is the likelihood that this will negatively impact what each County in the State, including Marion County, realizes from the State. He gave a brief overview of what the County has done regarding past years on where they needed to come in on their respective budgets, noting there are going to be some challenges relating to the millage rates.

Commissioner Stone expressed appreciation to the Clerk and his staff for ensuring the County is in a good financial position. She opined that the Constitutional Officers need to take the Clerk's comments into consideration when considering their budget requests.

Budget Director Audrey Fowler stated the good news is that in relation to the taxable value there is significant amounts of new construction that is added to the tax rolls, noting 1,900,000,000.00 is the initial estimate with an overall estimated taxable increase of about 10.6 percent (%) on the Countywide. She advised that she certifies to the estimate, not the Value Adjustment Board (VAB) value like the Property Appraiser does, so she can compare budgets. Ms. Fowler stated in Fire Rescue and in MSTU for Law Enforcement there is an increase in taxable value at 11.2 %. She advised that MSTU's for Rainbow Lake Estates (RLE), Marion Oaks, and others have a lot of new construction, which are closer to a 20% increase. Ms. Fowler stated Silver Springs Shores (SSS), which is built out, is about 7.5%. She advised that in all of the MSTUs for Marion Oaks, RLE, and others millages will be at about the same rate, noting the countywide General Fund, Fine and Forfeiture Fund and MSTU for Law Enforcement fund at this time have expenditures that exceed what we can fund with the same millage. She opined she is unsure exactly what those numbers are going to be at this time.

In response to Chairman Bryant, Ms. Fowler advised that prior to changes there would be an increase in the millage in the amount of 00.1200 of a mill in the General Fund, 00.1300 of a mill in the Fine and Forfeiture Fund and 00.3500 of a mill in the MSTU for Law Enforcement fund for an overall increase of 0.6000 of a mill between the 3 funds. She stated she is trying to mitigate and scan through other revenues to see what options are available. Ms. Fowler advised that the Sales Tax is in the proposed budget as the same rate as the prior year, but she anticipates there will be a reduction in July if the State budget is approved.

Ms. Fowler clarified every 1% reduction of State Shared Revenues and Sales Tax is about \$480,000.00 to the County, noting if they reduce it 5% then the County is looking at about \$2,400,000.00 lost in the General Fund. This would also affect the County's infrastructure surtax.

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Chairman Bryant advised that State Shared Revenue is different from the Penny Sales Tax and gave a brief overview on how those funds are utilized.

Ms. Fowler stated the General Fund is made up of two Half-Cent Sales Tax and State Shared Revenue, noting those funds are collected statewide and pooled. The distribution formula is based on what is collected in the State. She advised that the Infrastructure Surtax in is what is collected within the borders of Marion County.

General discussion ensued.

Ms. Fowler gave a brief overview of the budget workshop schedule for 2025.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stone, seconded by Commissioner Zalak, to approve the 2025 Budget Workshop Schedule as presented. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board (4-0).

5.2.2. Present the Acquisition or Disposition of Property Forms Authorizing Changes in Status, as Follows: 039140 and 182830

A motion was made by Commissioner Stone, seconded by Commissioner McClain, to approve the Disposition of Property forms 039140 and 182830. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board (4-0).

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS (Request Proof of Publication) at 10:00 am:

Public participation is encouraged. When prompted, please step up to the podium and state your name and address for the record. Please limit your comments to the specific issue being addressed.

6.1. PUBLIC HEARING to Consider an Ordinance to Amend Chapter 2, Article IX of the Marion County Code Related to Surplus Real Property Disposition

County Attorney Matthew G. Minter presented the following recommendation:

Description/Background: This is a Public Hearing to consider an ordinance to amend Chapter 2, Article IX of the Marion County Code related to surplus real property disposition that establishes best practices for the disposition of surplus real property deemed suitable for affordable housing, including creating a local preference for the highest competitive bidder. Additionally, the ordinance directs that the proceeds received from the sale of all surplus property, except those properties purchased with restricted funds, are to be deposited into the Affordable Housing Assistance Trust Fund.

Budget/Impact: None.

Recommended Action: Motion to adopt the ordinance to amend Chapter 2, Article IX of the Marion County Code related to surplus real property disposition.

Deputy Clerk Windberg presented Proof of Publication Legal ad No. 11331636 entitled, "Notice of Public Hearing" published in the Star Banner newspaper on May 23, 2025. The Notice states the Board will consider the adoption of an Ordinance Amending Chapter 2 Article IX of the Marlon County Code relating to Surplus Real Property Disposition.

Chief Assistant County Attorney Dana Olesky, Legal, advised that in addition to the proof of publication the appropriate business impact statement was also posted on the Marion County website regarding this Ordinance. She stated the presented Ordinance is to amend the surplus property disposition standards for both properties that are designated as general surplus properties and those that have been deemed suitable for affordable housing. Ms. Olesky advised that pursuant to Statutes 125.35 the BCC can adopt an Ordinance outlining the procedures for any surplus property. She stated late last year a policy was submitted to the BCC and approved that outlined the procedures when

properties are deemed suitable for affordable housing and how those properties would be sold or donated to nonprofits. Ms. Olesky advised that after the policy was adopted staff realized they needed to amend the Ordinance to fall in line with that policy and update some of the procedures for the general surplus. She gave a brief overview of the proposed changes.

Chairman Bryant opened the floor to public comment.

Executive Director Keith Fair, Housing Finance Authority (HFA), NE 25th Avenue, advised that he is unaware of any developers in Marion County that would be able to qualify for bond that financing or the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) 223 loan because they do not have the experience in affordable housing; therefore, the applicant has to partner with someone who has that experience for at least the first one or two developments. He stated two people working full time in a family making minimum wage would still be short the 80% area median income (AMI). Mr. Fair stated if the BCC decides they would not like to sell the properties and they would like to hold it for affordability in the future, the Central Florida Community Land Trust (CFCLT) is designed for rentals. He advised that the BCC could park the land until it could be used for affordability. Mr. Fair opined that this is a great incentive to give to a developer, noting that it would then stay affordable for 99 years. He advised that he is meeting with the County's Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC) Board to request consideration of a proposal of a waiver or fund to use to underwrite the cost of the (Transportation Impact Fee) TIF's for at least 300 units per year for a 5 year period. Mr. Fair stated Marion County is competing with other Counties to get affordable work force housing in our County. He advised that the Ocala/Marion Chamber and Economic Partnership (CEP) reported last year roughly 100,000 cars are driving in and out of the County everyday to come to work. Mr. Fair opined that if there was more affordable housing this could possibly relieve some traffic issues as well.

Chairman Bryant questioned whether Ms. Olesky had any concerns over local developer preference. Ms. Olesky stated she had no concerns. She clarified that the new language keeps CFCLT as an option.

Charles Calhoun, SW 92nd Court, advised that Congresswoman Kat Cammack offered to bring in the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, which is an affordable housing program for our veterans. He stated they are in the beginning stages of this and hopes it could be a segue into some affordable housing.

Chairman Bryant advised that public comment is now closed.

A motion was made by Commissioner McClain, seconded by Commissioner Stone, to adopt Ordinance 25-19. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board (4-0).

Ordinance 25-19 is entitled:

AN ORDINANCE OF MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA, RELATING TO THE ENHANCEMENT OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES; AMENDING CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE IX, SECTION 2-283 OF THE MARION COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES TO PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES FOR DISPOSITION OF SURPLUS REAL PROPERTY; CREATING SECTION 2-284 PROVIDING FOR ALTERNATIVE STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES FOR DISPOSITION OF SURPLUS REAL PROPERTY SUITABLE FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING; CREATING A LOCAL PREFERENCE; PROVIDING FOR DEPOSIT OF PROCEEDS FROM ALL SURPLUS REAL PROPERTY SALES INTO THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND, UNLESS

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OTHERWISE DESIGNATED BY THE BOARD; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN CODE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

6.2. PUBLIC HEARING to Consider an Ordinance to Amend Chapter 2 Administration, Article III, Officer and Employees, Division 2, County Administrator and Article VII, Procurement Code Section 2-237, Authority of County Administrator of the Marion County Code

County Attorney Minter presented the following recommendation:

Description/Background: Public Hearing to consider an Ordinance to Amend Chapter 2 Administration, Article III, Officer and Employees, Division 2, County Administrator and Article VII Procurement Code, Section 2-237, Authority of County Administrator or his or her designee. Due to recent proposed changes to the State Housing Initiatives Partnership Local Housing Assistance Plan (LHAP), it is necessary to revise the County Administrator's signing authority to execute the necessary documents for purchase assistance; new construction Home Ownership-Community Land Trust programs; and Homeowner Rehabilitation programs, which may exceed the current authority threshold of \$50,000.00.

Budget/Impact: None.

Recommended Action: Motion to adopt the ordinance amending Chapter 2 Administration, Article III, Officer and Employees, Division 2, County Administrator and Article VII Procurement Code, Section 2-237, Authority of County Administrator of the Marion County Code.

Deputy Clerk Windberg presented Proof of Publication Legal ad No. 11331685 entitled, "Notice of Public Hearing" published in the Star Banner newspaper on May 23, 2025. The Notice states the Board will consider the adoption of an Ordinance amending the Marion County Code of Ordinances.

Chief Assistant County Attorney Olesky, Legal, advised that the appropriate business impact statement was filed on the County's website regarding this Ordinance. She clarified that when she requested the public hearing the request was only for the Division 2 County Administrator, Chapter 2; however, it was appropriately advertised. Ms. Olesky stated she made the decision to also include the Procurement code. She stated back in April the BCC approved the Local Housing Assistance Plan (LHAP), noting it is being considered by the Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC). Ms. Olesky advised that the plan provides for an increase in assistance from \$50,000.00 to \$75,000 and in some cases \$100,000.00 or down payment purchase assistance, homeowner rehabilitation, etc. If the LHAP is approved by the Florida Housing Finance Corporation and the levels are put into place they will exceed the County Administrators signature authority under the Procurement Ordinance. She stated in 2021 there were some amendments made that allowed for the authority of the County Administrator and/or his designee to sign for grant applications; however, when that Ordinance was adopted, it was never codified appropriately. Ms. Olesky clarified that the language presented in today's Ordinance has already been adopted and staff are just correcting its placement for public viewing. She advised that it is very specific in only allowing the County Administrator's authority to exceed the \$50,000.00 when it comes to these specific programs included with the LHAP. Chairman Bryant opened the floor to public comment.

There being none, Chairman Bryant advised that public comment is now closed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stone, seconded by Commissioner McClain, to

adopt Ordinance 25-20. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board (4-0). Ordinance 25-20 is entitled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE MARION COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 2 ADMINISTRATION, ARTICLE III OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES, DIVISION 2 COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, SECTION 2-48 POWERS AND DUTIES PARAGRAPH (4), TO CLARIFY THE AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR WITH RESPECT TO CONTRACTS, APPLICATIONS, AND AGREEMENTS; AMENDING ARTICLE VII PROCUREMENT CODE SECTION 2-237 AUTHORITY OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR HIS OR HER DESIGNEE; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE: AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

7. CONSENT:

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda is a motion to approve all recommended actions. All matters on the Consent Agenda are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion unless desired by a Commissioner. Commissioner McClain requested Item 7.1.1. be pulled from Consent for discussion. It was the general consensus of the Board to concur.

Commissioner Zalak advised that Agenda Item 7.7.11 would be pulled from consideration and brought back to the Board at a later date. It was the general consensus of the Board to concur.

Chairman Bryant stated she wanted to bring attention to the good news associated with Item 7.4.1 (request approval of employer insurance renewal for FY 2025-26).

County Administrator Bouyounes, Administration, gave a brief overview of the Insurance Renewal for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26, noting staff were able to renew the contract without any increase.

Chairman Bryant stated stories like this are important and reflects the hard work done by staff, the shape the buildings are in, the driving records and all factors that go into insurance renewals. She expressed her appreciation to staff.

Upon motion of Commissioner Zalak, seconded by Commissioner McClain, the Board acted on the Consent Agenda as follows:

7.1. Administration:

7.1.1. Request Approval of Funding Request for the 2025 Fourth of July Celebration Hosted by the City of Ocala (Budget Impact - Neutral; expenditure of \$12,200)

The Board considered the following recommendation as presented by ACA Angel Roussel, Administration:

Description/Background: The City of Ocala requested funding support in the amount of \$25,000 from Marion County for the 2025 Fourth of July Celebration. The 2024 event was a tremendous success, with an estimated 10,000 attendees, and this year the city is expecting increased regional attraction and attendance. This family-friendly event will have activities for everyone to enjoy, including live music; a fun-filled Kids Zone featuring games and activities for the whole family; a variety of local food trucks, offering everything from savory snacks to sweet treats; and a spectacular fireworks display that will light up the night sky.

The Tourist Development Council has approved a funding request in the amount of \$6,100, which is a separate agenda item to be considered by the Board. In addition, staff is recommending to award additional funding in the amount of \$12,200 from the General Fund.

Budget/Impact: Neutral; expenditure of \$12,200 from General Fund.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve a contribution of \$12,200 for the 2025 Fourth of July Celebration hosted by the City of Ocala.

Commissioner McClain advised that he does not have an issue using Tourist Development Council (TDC) funds for this project but is concerned with using funds from the General Fund. He opined that it does not fit into the health, safety and welfare aspect. Mr. Bouyounes stated the BCC has received the cost breakdown of what the City of Ocala is going to incur, noting that is how staff came up with this recommendation. He advised that this is an event that is being done for the community. There is no other place in Marion County where there is a public sanctioned type of July 4th event. Mr. Bouyounes stated this could prevent people from having small events in different neighborhoods, which encourages attendance. He opined that citizens prefer fireworks compared to the drone show. The City of Ocala is heading this event and staffing it. Mr. Bouyounes advised that the County's recommendation is to reimburse 50% of the hard costs that the City of Ocala is going to incur, noting that is why they are using the General Fund.

In response to Commissioner Zalak, Mr. Bouyounes stated the City requested \$25,000.00, but staff is recommending \$12,200.00 from the General Fund plus an additional \$6,100.00 from the TDC.

Commissioner Zalak opined that the city has stepped in to fill a gap and that he would like to attempt to take this opportunity to partner with them.

In response to Chairman Bryant, Mr. Bouyounes advised that the County contributed approximately \$5,000.00 from the General fund to sponsor the God & Country Day event in the past.

General Discussion ensued relating to costs.

Clerk Harrell opined that next year is the 250th celebration of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and that there will be large celebrations, noting this should be kept in mind when discussing this year's plan.

General discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Commissioner Zalak, seconded by Commissioner Stone, to approve a contribution of \$12,200.00 for the 2025 Fourth of July Celebration hosted by the City of Ocala. The motion passed 3-1 with Commissioner McClain dissenting.

7.2. Community Services:

7.2.1. Request Approval of Emergency Solutions Grants Program RUSH Funding Agreement Between Marion County and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (Budget Impact - Neutral; not to exceed \$151,235)

The Board accepted the following recommendation as presented by Community Services Director Cheryl Martin (Also known as (A.K.A.) Cheryl Butler):

Description/Background: As an entitlement community, Marion County receives annual grant funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This includes:

- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
- HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME)
- Emergency Solutions Grant (HESG)

Additionally, HUD has awarded Marion County extra funds through the HESG - Rapid Unsheltered Survivor Housing (RUSH) Program.

A public notice regarding these funds was posted on the Marion County's Community Services website from May 9 through May 24, 2025, and no public comments were received.

The RUSH funds will be distributed to selected agencies to provide rapid rehousing and homeless prevention services for individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The goal is to support homeless services that are not covered by other federal disaster relief programs. Staff is requesting approval and signature of the agreement.

Budget/Impact: Neutral, not to exceed \$151,235; Revenue Code-AG345331-331533; Expense Code-AG345564-583233.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve and authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute all necessary documents associated with this Agreement between Marion County and HUD.

(Ed. Note: This Item was approved with Budget Amendment Resolution 5.1.7.)

7.2.2. Request Approval of First Amendment of Marion County Standard Professional Services Agreement and Mortgage Modification of State Housing Initiative Partnership New Construction Project Between Marion County and Saving Mercy Corporation (Budget Impact - Neutral; not to exceed \$1,782,886)

The Board accepted the following recommendation as presented by Community Services Director Butler (Formerly Cheryl Martin):

Description/Background: Saving Mercy Corporation's mission is to provide affordable housing and case management services to at-risk families, veterans, and vulnerable individuals in a faith-based environment.

This amendment and mortgage modification will increase funding to allow for electric meter cans to be installed on each individual unit and extend the deadline of the contract to December 30, 2025. The amendment also clarifies all vacant affordable housing rental units, intended to house individuals who are experiencing homelessness, will be filled through referrals from the Continuum of Care's Coordinated Entry process.

This project aligns with the Empower Marion for Success II plan "incentivizing and addressing infill projects for lands within the urban growth boundary" and the Community Services' goals to increase affordable housing and permanent supportive housing for Marion County's most vulnerable population.

Budget/Impact: Neutral; not to exceed \$1,782,885.55; Org- ES350554; Object- 583215; Project- 350SHIP25C.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve and authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute all necessary documentation associated with Marion County Standard Professional Services Agreement between Marion County and Saving Mercy Corporation.

7.2.3. Request Approval of Florida Housing Finance Corporation Local Government Verification of Contribution - Loan Form Between Marion County and Carrfour apartments, LLLP (Budget Impact - Neutral; not to exceed \$100,000)

The Board accepted the following recommendation as presented by Community Services Director Butler:

Description/Background: Carrfour Apartments, LLLP has applied to the Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC) under the “2025-108 Housing Credit and SAIL Financing for Homeless Housing Developments” program. The proposed development, “Mercy Village”, located at 3601 W Silver Springs Boulevard will create 57 affordable rental units in Marion County.

In support of the application, the County is to execute the attached Local Government Verification of Contribution - Loan Form, committing \$100,000 in the form of a reduced-interest loan. These funds are available from an eligible affordable housing grant administered by the Community Services Department, such as, but not limited to, the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) or the State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) program, and only if FHFC awards tax credits to the project.

All conditions outlined in the Preliminary Loan Commitment Agreement must be met before the formal funding contract and mortgage for approval is brought back for the Board’s consideration. No construction will begin prior to this final approval.

Budget/Impact: Neutral; not to exceed \$100,000.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve and authorize the Chairman to execute the Florida Housing Finance Corporation Local Government Verification of Contribution - Loan Form associated with Carrfour Apartments, LLLP.

7.2.4. Request Approval of the Third Amendment to Marion County Standard Professional Services Agreement Challenge Grant Program Between Marion County and Ocala Housing Authority, Inc. (Budget Impact - None)

The Board accepted the following recommendation as presented by Community Services Director Butler:

Description/Background: Marion County administers Challenge grant funding on behalf of the Ocala/Marion Joint Office on Homelessness for the Continuum of Care (CoC) FL-514.

- On July 2, 2024, the Board of County Commissioners (Board) approved an agreement with Ocala Housing Authority (OHA) in the amount of \$56,844 to provide homeless services.
- On November 5, 2024, the Board approved a First Amendment to the agreement, adding \$39,292.80 to support permanent supportive housing (PSH) for families with minor children and at least one disabled family member in Marion County.
- On February 18, 2025, the Board approved a Second Amendment to provide an additional \$184,972.41 for case management and repairs to existing PSH units.

OHA is now requesting a Third Amendment to allow the County to advance the grant funds up front, rather than operate on a reimbursement basis. This change is needed because OHA does not currently have the cash flow or assets to cover the expenses in advance and must meet a grant expenditure deadline of June 30, 2025.

Additionally, OHA has provided staff with all required quotes for the capital improvement. Allowing the funds to be fronted will enable OHA to complete the capital improvements needed for its permanent supportive housing units in a timely manner.

Budget/Impact: None.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve and authorize the Chair and Clerk to execute the Third Amendment to the Agreement between Marion County and Ocala Housing Authority, Inc. to include all necessary documents associated with this agreement.

7.3. Development Review Committee:

7.3.1. Request Approval of a Final Plat for Debonair Estates Phases 1 and 2, Parcel Numbers 13668-000-02, 12673-000010, 12674-001-01, 12673-000008, 12673-000009, 12672-000-00 Application Number 32856 (Budget Impact - None)

The Board accepted the following recommendation as presented by Building Safety Director Michael L. Savage, Sr. on behalf of the Development Review Committee (DRC):

Description/Background: This is a request to approve the Final Plat for Debonair Estates Phases 1 and 2.

This plat is located in the western portion of the County containing 79 lots, 9 tracts, and 1.53 miles of road on approximately 131.81 acres.

This Final Plat will be reviewed by the Development Review Committee on June 2, 2025 and all comments will be forward to the Board of County Commissioners for consideration.

Budget/Impact: None.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve the Final Plat for Debonair Estates Phases 1 and 2 and authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute the same.

7.3.2. Request Approval of Waiver Request for Land Development Code Section 2.16.1.B(8)(g) - Agricultural Lot Split Establishment of County Municipal Services Benefit Unit for Equine Chateau, Parcel Number 12580-001-00, Application Number 31363 (for Agricultural Lot Split Application Number 31362) (Budget Impact - None)

The Board accepted the following recommendation as presented by Building Safety Director Savage on behalf of the DRC:

Description/Background: Section 2.16.1.B(8)(g) of the Land Development Code (LDC) states a County Municipal Services Benefit Unit (MSBU) shall be established for the maintenance of the improvements created by this division prior to final approval and recordation. A waiver to this provision may only be granted by the Board upon review and recommendation by the Development Review Committee (DRC).

This Agricultural Lot Split is located in the western portion of the county containing 6 lots on approximately 107.82 acres. The LDC Section 2.16.1 allows 10 lots of 10 acres each for an Agricultural Lot Split.

The Applicant requests to allow an easement agreement that stipulates maintenance. DRC reviewed the request by the applicant, and after discussion acted on April 28, 2025 to recommend approval to the Board, ensuring the covenants stated access via the common easement would not be maintained by Marion County.

Budget/Impact: None.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve the Agricultural Lot Split without the creation of a MSBU subject to providing the appropriate documentation that the property owners will provide maintenance.

7.3.3. Request Approval of Waiver Request for Land Development Code Section 2.16.1.B(8)(g) - Agricultural Lot Split Establishment of County Municipal Services Benefit Unit for Equine Paradise, Parcel Number 12462-002-00, Application Number 31358 (for Agricultural Lot Split Application Number 31356) (Budget Impact - None)

The Board accepted the following recommendation as presented by Building Safety Director Savage on behalf of the DRC:

Description/Background: Section 2.16.1.B(8)(g) of the Land Development Code (LDC) states a County Municipal Services Benefit Unit (MSBU) shall be established for the maintenance of the improvements created by this division prior to final approval and recordation. A waiver to this provision may only be granted by the Board upon review and recommendation by the Development Review Committee (DRC).

This Agricultural Lot Split is located in the northwest portion of the county containing 10 lots on approximately 137.16 acres. The LDC Section 2.16.1 allows 10 lots of 10 acres each for an Agricultural Lot Split.

The Applicant requests to allow an easement agreement that stipulates maintenance. DRC reviewed the request by the applicant, and after discussion acted on April 28, 2025 to recommend approval to the Board, ensuring the covenants stated access via the common easement would not be maintained by Marion County.

Budget/Impact: None.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve the Agricultural Lot Split without the creation of a MSBU subject to providing the appropriate documentation that the property owners will provide maintenance.

7.4. Human Resources:

7.4.1. Request Approval of Employer Insurance Renewal for FY 2025-26 (Budget Impact - Neutral; expenditure of \$4,004,252)

The Board accepted the following recommendation as presented by Human Resources (HR) Director Sara Caron:

Description/Background: The County's Comprehensive Employer Insurance Agent, Brown & Brown (formerly known as PRIA), has generated premium renewals for the County's Property/Casualty and miscellaneous employer insurance coverage as shown on the attached spreadsheet to be effective October 1, 2025. Brown & Brown shops the market annually to obtain the most competitive coverage and rates for Marion County.

The property insurance market has made a positive shift throughout the past year. With additional capacity entering the Florida catastrophic property marketplace, carriers are willing to take on additional risk and offer competitive rates to grow their bottom line.

General Liability, Public Officials Liability, Cyber Liability, Crime and Excess Workers' Compensation rates remain stable. Coverage terms, limits and retentions remain unchanged.

The Auto Liability premiums remain the same.

The total estimated payroll is \$132 million, insured auto values at \$48 million, and values for buildings, contents and mobile equipment is in excess of \$559 million.

Overall, there is no increase in premiums and the premium amount remains the same as budgeted in the current fiscal year.

Budget/Impact: Neutral; expenditure of \$4,004,252 to be paid from the Self-Insurance fund, which has been included in the FY 2025-26 proposed budget.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve the estimated Employer insurance renewal in the amount of \$4,004,252 to be paid from the Self-Insurance Fund, and authorize Risk and Benefit Services to execute the required documents.

7.5. Library Services:

7.5.1. Request Approval of Marion County Public Library System Operational Plan of Service, 2025-2030 (Budget Impact - None)

The Board accepted the following recommendation as presented by Public Library System Director Julia H. Sieg:

Description/Background: Attached is a copy of the proposed Marion County Public Library System Operational Plan of Service for 2025-2030. This proposed plan is the result of analyzing user feedback through surveys conducted throughout the year, gathering staff input, reviewing the existing library long-range plan, and examining other public library plans from across the nation, as well as assessing current circumstances and trends. The currently approved library long-range plan expires at the end of June 2025.

One of the essential factors driving the need for an updated, governing-body-approved long-range plan is that this plan is one of the documents required for submission to the Florida Department of State, Division of Library and Information Services, to remain eligible for the annual State Aid to Libraries Grant. The amount of the State Aid to Libraries grant fluctuates each year. We received \$110,223 this fiscal year.

Budget/Impact: None. Approval of the plan does not commit the Board of County Commissioners to future expenditures or activities, yet it does provide a framework for services. Approval of the plan enables the Marion County Public Library System to continue to be eligible to receive the State Aid to Libraries grant dollars.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve the Marion County Public Library System Operational Plan of Service, 2025-2030.

7.6. Parks & Recreation:

7.6.1. Request Approval of the Airport Infrastructure Grant Agreement Between the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Aviation Administration and Marion County (Budget Impact - Neutral; grant revenue of \$447,988)

The Board accepted the following recommendation as presented by Parks and Recreation Director Jim Couillard:

Description/Background: The U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has offered the Marion County Airport an Airport Infrastructure Grant (AIG) Agreement in the amount of \$447,988, for Project Number 3-12-0147-010-2025. This grant is intended for Phase 2 of the construction of Taxiway Alpha and the installation of lighting at the Marion County Airport.

The AIG Agreement must be digitally signed by Marion County's authorized representative, followed by an attorney's certification, no later than June 6, 2025.

Attached for review is a draft of the AIG grant agreement. The electronic copy will be routed to the Chairman and County Attorney for electronic signature, upon approval by the Marion County Board of County Commissioners.

Budget/Impact: Neutral; revenue from grant of \$447,988.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve Airport Infrastructure Grant Agreement and authorize the Chairman and County Attorney to execute the same.

7.7. Procurement Services:

7.7.1. Request Approval of Bid Award: 25B-094 Sale of Lead Acid Batteries - Trademark Metals Recycling, LLC Tampa, FL (Budget Impact - Revenue; estimated \$150,000 annually)

The Board accepted the following recommendation as presented by Procurement Services Director Susan Olsen:

Description/Background: On behalf of Solid Waste Department, Procurement issued a bid solicitation seeking a qualified and experienced vendor to purchase batteries collected at the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center located at Baseline Landfill. Only one proposal was received. Trademark Metals Recycling (TMR) submitted a bid offering 55% of the per pound market value to the county. After a thorough evaluation of the proposal, Solid Waste Director, Mark Johnson, recommends awarding the contract to TMR. Attached for review is a draft contract, which is set to expire on June 30, 2027, and has two (2) annual renewal options. Upon approval at today's meeting, it will be sent to the firm for signatures. Once returned, it will be forwarded to Legal, the Clerk and Chairman for signatures.

Budget/Impact: Revenue; estimated to generate \$150,000 annually.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve recommendation and allow staff to issue contract, and upon approval from Legal, authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute contract with Trademark Metals Recycling, LLC under 25B-094.

7.7.2. Request Approval of Bid Award: 25B-095 Water and Wastewater Laboratory Analysis - Advanced Environmental Laboratories, Inc., Jacksonville, FL (Budget Impact - Neutral; estimated annual expenditure of \$140,000)

The Board accepted the following recommendation as presented by Procurement Services Director Olsen:

Description/Background: Marion County Utilities (MCU) requested that Procurement advertise a bid for water and wastewater laboratory analysis services. These services are essential for routine water quality monitoring, ensuring public safety compliance, in the event of a water line break, and as required by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP).

Three (3) bids were received in response to the solicitation. Based on the evaluation of the submitted proposals and the lowest responsive and responsible bid, MCU Director Tony Cunningham recommends awarding the contract to Advanced Environmental Laboratories, Inc. (AEL). A summary of the bids received is provided in the table below.

FIRM - LOCATION	BID AMOUNT
Advanced Environmental Laboratories, Inc. - Jacksonville, FL	\$139,511.00
Pace Analytical Services, LLC - Ormand Beach, FL	\$176,428.01
Plant Technicians - Leesburg, FL	\$227,960.80

A draft contract is attached for review. Upon Board approval at today's meeting, the contract will be forwarded to AEL for signature. Once returned, it will be routed for final approval and execution by Legal, the Clerk and Chairman.

Budget/Impact: Neutral; estimated annual expenditure of \$140,000. Estimated expenditures may vary based on actual need but should not exceed approved budgeted amounts and will be based on contracted unit costs.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve Bid Award to Advanced Environmental Laboratories, Inc. and upon approval from Legal, authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute the contract under 25B-095.

7.7.3. Request Approval of Bid Award: 25B-103 Bulk Oil and Fluids - Clardy Oil Company, Ocala, FL and Palmdale Oil Company, Ft. Pierce, FL (Budget Impact - Neutral; estimated annual expenditure of \$95,000)

The Board accepted the following recommendation as presented by Procurement Services Director Olsen:

Description/Background: On behalf of Marion County Fleet Management, Procurement advertised two (2) solicitations for the purchase of bulk oil and fluids. The first solicitation did not result in any bids for the department's mandatory 15W40 HD conventional motor oil, and all submitted bids were subsequently rejected.

A second solicitation was advertised and received three (3) vendor responses. Of those, Clardy Oil Company was the only vendor able to supply the required 15W40 HD conventional motor oil and Mercon LV transmission fluid. However, their pricing on other items was significantly higher than competing bids. Palmdale Oil Company submitted a bid that met or exceeded the department's minimum requirements for all other requested items. The third vendor, Safety-Kleen Systems, Inc., was unable to provide products that met Fleet's minimum specifications and was therefore disqualified from consideration.

Mark Williams, Fleet Director, recommends awarding a portion of the scope to Clardy Oil Company and the other portion to Palmdale Oil Company.

Draft contracts for both Clardy Oil Company and Palmdale Oil Company are attached for review. Upon Board approval at today's meeting, the contracts will be forwarded to both vendors for signatures. Once returned, it will be routed to Legal, the Clerk, and Chairman for signatures.

Budget/Impact: Neutral; estimated annual expenditure is \$95,000. Estimated expenditures may vary based on actual need, but will not exceed approved budgeted amounts, and will be based on contracted unit costs.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve recommendation and allow staff to issue a contract to Clardy Oil Company and Palmdale Oil Company, and upon approval from Legal, authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute the contracts under 25B-103.

7.7.4. Request Approval of Change Order 1 to Purchase Order 2401732: 24Q-226 Cross Florida Greenway Baseline Rd. to Santos Paved Trail - Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., Ocala, FL (Budget Impact - Neutral; additional expenditure of \$15,730)

The Board accepted the following recommendation as presented by Procurement Services Director Olsen:

Description/Background: On September 4, 2024, the Board awarded a contract to Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., under RFQ 24Q-226 for the engineering of the Cross Florida Greenway paved trail, extending from the Baseline Road Trailhead

to the Santos Trailhead. This project involved the development of engineering plans, specifications, cost estimates, bid documents, and permit documents.

Change Order 1 requests approval to add \$15,730 to PO 2401732 to conduct a Cultural Resource Assessment Survey (CRAS) as part of FDOT's requirements for this project. The CRAS will help identify potential archaeological sites or historic resources within the project area.

Attached for review is a copy of Change Order 1 and the Proposal from Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. Upon approval at today's meeting the Change Order will be presented to the Chairman and Clerk for signature.

Budget/Impact: Neutral; additional expenditure of \$15,730, bringing the project's total cost to \$838,025.18. Funding is available in TIP000024 BL760541-563220 (County Trans Maint Fund).

Recommended Action: Motion to approve Change Orders, authorize the Chairman to execute, and allow staff to process Change Order 1 to Purchase Order 2401732 for Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. under project 24Q- 226.

7.7.5. Request Approval of Contract Renewal: 20P-145 Building Condition and Needs Assessment - Partner Assessment Corporation, DBA Partner Engineering and Science, Inc., Torrance, CA (Budget Impact - None)

The Board accepted the following recommendation as presented by Procurement Services Director Olsen:

Description/Background: On July 7, 2020, the Board approved a contract with Partner Assessment Corporation, dba Partner Engineering and Science, Inc. (PES), to provide comprehensive building condition and needs assessments for various County facilities over a term not to exceed ten years. The contract includes four (4) remaining annual renewal options.

PES has consistently received favorable performance evaluations. Based on a request from the Facilities Director, Jared Goodspeed, staff recommends renewing the contract for an additional one year term, extending through July 6, 2026.

A draft amendment to the contract is attached for review. Pending Board approval at today's meeting, the amendment will be forwarded to PES. Upon execution by the firm, it will be routed for final approval by the County Attorney, Chairman, and Clerk.

Budget/Impact: None; Projects assigned to the firm, which exceed \$50,000 will be brought back before the Board as a separate task order for review and final approval.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve Contract Renewal and authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute the contract renewal under 20P-145.

7.7.6. Request Approval of Contract Renewal: 22B-155-CA-01 Emergency and Scheduled Repairs of Utility Infrastructure - T&C Underground, Inc., Ocala, FL (Budget Impact - Neutral; estimated annual expenditure of \$191,098)

The Board accepted the following recommendation as presented by Procurement Services Director Olsen:

Description/Background: On August 2, 2022, the Board approved a contract with T&C Underground, Inc. (TCU) on behalf of Marion County Utilities (MCU) for the completion of emergency and scheduled utility infrastructure repairs. These

services are required when MCU staff are unable to perform the work due to limitations in manpower, workload, or equipment availability.

TCU has agreed to maintain their current pricing for the renewal period and has received favorable performance evaluations throughout the term of the existing contract. Based on their satisfactory performance and continued need for services, MCU recommends renewing the contract with TCU for a term of one (1) year.

Attached for review is the draft contract amendment. Upon approval at today's meeting, the contract will be sent to the firm, and once returned, will be forwarded to Legal, the Clerk and Chairman for signatures.

Budget/Impact: Neutral; estimated annual expenditure is \$191,098; however this will be based on the needs of the department. Annual expenditures shall not exceed approved FY budgeted amounts and shall be based on contracted pricing. Funding is from line ZF448536-563102 (Marion County Utility Fund).

Recommended Action: Motion to approve and allow staff to issue, and upon approval from Legal, authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute the contract renewal under 22B-155-CA-01.

7.7.7. Request Approval of Contract Renewal: 22Q-077-CA-01, Pressure Washing & Painting Contract Services - Quick Painting Group Corp, Orlando, FL (Budget Impact - None)

The Board accepted the following recommendation as presented by Procurement Services Director Olsen:

Description/Background: On May 17, 2022, the Board approved a contract with Quick Painting Group Corp (QPGC) for Pressure Washing & Painting Contract Services for Marion County owned and leased buildings.

QPGC has received favorable evaluations, and Facilities Director, Jared Goodspeed, recommends renewing the contract from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, for their final renewal option.

Attached for review is a draft contract renewal; pending approval at today's meeting, it will be sent to QPGC for signatures, and upon return, will be forwarded for the County Attorney's, Clerk's and Chairman's signatures.

Budget/Impact: None. Projects assigned to the contractor which exceed \$50,000 will be brought back before the Board as a separate task order with a detailed scope and fee schedule for review and final approval.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve and allow staff to issue, and upon approval from Legal, authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute the contract under 22Q-077.

7.7.8. Request Approval of First Contract Amendment: 23Q-163-CA-01 Engineering Consulting Services for Marion County Airport-Parallel Taxiways - Hoyle Tanner & Associates, Inc., Oviedo, FL (Budget Impact - Neutral; expenditure of \$438,414)

The Board accepted the following recommendation as presented by Procurement Services Director Olsen:

Description/Background: On November 21, 2023, the Board approved an agreement with Hoyle Tanner & Associates, Inc. to provide engineering and consulting services for Marion County Airport's parallel taxiways. This is a grant funded project through the FAA (90% match funding), FDOT (8% match funding), and local (2% match funding). Due to the grant funding regulations, the

Construction Engineering Inspection (CEI) services for Phase II of Taxiway A and B would need to be brought back to the Board for approval once construction is ready to begin.

This first contract amendment requests approval to allow Hoyle Tanner & Associates to conduct CEI services for the Construction of Taxiway A, which is a parallel taxiway to the current 05-23 runway. The full parallel taxiway eliminates the need for aircraft to back-taxi on an active runway after landing or before takeoff. The CEI services will consist of project administration, construction administration, and resident engineering services.

Attached for review is a draft of the contract. Upon approval at today's meeting, it will be sent to Hoyle Tanner & Associates, Inc. for signatures. Once returned, it will be forwarded to Legal, the Clerk, and Chairman for signatures.

Budget/Impact: Neutral; project cost is \$438,414. Funding is from BQ415542-563101 (Marion County Airport Fund).

Recommended Action: Motion to approve recommendation and allow staff to issue the contract. Upon approval by Legal, authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute the contract with Hoyle Tanner & Associates, Inc., under 23Q-163-CA-01.

7.7.9. Request Approval of First Contract Amendment and Change Order 1 to Purchase Order 2301458: 23Q-067-CA-01 Irish Acres to Silver Springs Regional Water Main Interconnect - Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., Ocala, FL (Budget Impact - Neutral; additional expenditure of \$77,888)

The Board accepted the following recommendation as presented by Procurement Services Director Olsen:

Description/Background: On July 18, 2023, the Board approved a contract with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. (KHA) to provide professional engineering services for the design of approximately 47,000 linear feet of 16-inch water main and 5,300 linear feet of 12-inch water main to interconnect the Irish Acres and Silver Springs Regional Water Treatment Plants. At that time, Purchase Order 2301458 was issued for these services. Since project initiation, Marion County Utilities (MCU) has requested a change in the scope of work related to engineering design. In support of this revised scope, MCU has secured a grant from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) in the amount of \$77,887.50. Due to the changes, a contract amendment and change order to the purchase order need to be completed.

This First Contract Amendment, being presented today, modifies Exhibit A to include the consultant's additional services and fees associated with the revised engineering design. MCU has requested that KHA prepare a plan that would allow the interconnect to avoid crossing underneath an existing Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) drainage structure, and to incorporate a new 12-inch force main into the construction plans as an alternate alongside the interconnect water main, which would avoid conflicts with multiple existing utilities in the area. Furthermore, MCU has requested that KHA split the construction plans into two (2) phases. The first phase (Phase 1) would include the interconnect between the Highway 441/Highway 326 intersection and the NE 40th Avenue Road/NE 49th Street intersection and the water main extension along NE 36th Avenue between NE 49th Street and NE 35th Street. The second phase (Phase 2) will continue the

interconnect east from the end of Phase 1 to the Silver Springs Regional Interconnect location.

Change Order 1, also presented for consideration today, adds a second line to the purchase order to allocate the FDEP grant funds to the project.

Attached for review is the First Contract Amendment and Change Order 1. Upon Board approval, the Contract Amendment will be routed to KHA for signatures. Once signed and returned, it will be submitted to the County Attorney, Clerk and Chairman for final signatures. The Change Order will also be submitted to the Clerk and Chairman for execution.

Budget/Impact: Neutral; additional expenditure of \$77,887.50 is a grant from FDEP and will be added to the purchase order as a second line with the project string UTC000202-CIP UTILITY-NEWINF CNS-448. This will bring the total purchase order amount to \$435,167.50.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve and authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute the First Contract Amendment and Change Order 1 for Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., under 23Q-067.

7.7.10. Request Approval for Ratification of ArcGIS Urban and ArcGIS Online Professional Plus Annual Subscription Purchase for Growth Services: 23BE-132 - Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc., Redlands, CA (Budget Impact - Neutral; expenditure of \$59,400)

The Board accepted the following recommendation as presented by Procurement Services Director Olsen:

Description/Background: On behalf of Information Technology and Growth Services, Procurement Services is requesting ratification for the ArcGIS Urban Initial Capability Deployment and Knowledge Transfer Workshop which includes the ArcGIS Online Professional Plus Annual Subscription. ArcGIS Urban is a web-based platform that supports planners and urban designers in visualizing, analyzing, and collaborating on development projects in a 3D environment. It enables data-driven decision-making by modeling zoning, land use, and development scenarios to assess potential impacts and support sustainable growth. The tool facilitates collaboration among planners, stakeholders, and the community. ESRI will assist with data import and training, after which the County will be responsible for ongoing updates related to parcel changes, boundary adjustments, and new project additions.

To initiate the project and maintain the planned schedule, a ratification of the purchase is necessary. While the purchase was intended to be included on the previous agenda for approval, the submission deadline was inadvertently missed. As a result, the item is now being presented for ratification to ensure the project proceeds without delay.

Budget/Impact: Neutral; expenditure of \$59,400. Funding is from the following lines:

AA320515-531109 - \$51,000 (General Fund)

AA320515-552106 - \$8,400 (General Fund).

Recommended Action: Motion to ratify the expenditure as related to the ArcGIS Urban and ArcGIS Online Professional Plus Annual Subscription Purchase under 23BE-132.

7.7.11. Request Approval of Task Order for Engineering Design Support Services: 20Q-074-TO-36 Maricamp Water Main Replacement - Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., Raleigh, NC (Budget Impact - Neutral; expenditure of \$96,583)

The following recommendation as presented by Procurement Services Director Olsen was withdrawn.

Description/Background: On July 21, 2020, the Board approved contracts with five (5) firms to provide Utilities Engineering Design Support Services for the County. Under this agreement, Marion County Utilities (MCU) has assigned Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. (KHA) to provide comprehensive engineering design services for the replacement of an existing 12-inch water main along SE Maricamp Road. The new main will consolidate and replace two aging water lines that have experienced frequent leaks. Additionally, the project will complete a loop in the water distribution system, thereby enhancing system reliability and operational efficiency in the area.

As part of the project, KHA will coordinate with survey and geotechnical subconsultants and provide quality assurance and control throughout the project design process. KHA will prepare design plans based on current utility locations and include all necessary technical specifications. The firm will also participate in design review meetings with MCU and the Office of the County Engineer (OCE) staff to ensure alignment throughout the process. The final design submittal will incorporate all necessary refinements, including vertical alignment and project-specific details. In addition, KHA will support MCU during the bidding phase by providing typical bidding assistance and engaging with prospective bidders as needed.

A copy of KHA's proposal and scope of work is attached for review and will be included as backup documentation for the associated purchase order.

Budget/Impact: Neutral; expenditure of \$96,582.50. Funding for this project is from line ZF448536-563102 (Marion County Utility Fund), Project UTC000094.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve the recommendation and authorize staff to issue the purchase order to Kimley- Horn and Associates, Inc. under 20Q-074.

7.7.12. Request Approval of Purchases \$50,000 and Over

Description/Background: The item below has been received by Procurement Services and is in conformance with the Procurement Code/Manual, pending approval at today's meeting.

Pending Requisition/Alan Jay Fleet Sales - Public Safety Communications requests approval to purchase one (1) 2025 Chevy Silverado 2500 HD Crew Cab Pickup 4WD WT 6.5' BED (\$55,065), as per specifications detailed on the attached quote. Total expenditure of \$55,065. Funds are available in line VJ734525-564101 (INFRAST SURTAX CAP PROJ FUND). This purchase meets the competitive bidding requirements under Sourcwell Contract #2024 0911521-NAF & 060920-NAF.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve purchases over \$50,000.

7.8. Tourist Development:

7.8.1. Request Approval of Tourist Development Council Request for Room Night Generating Event Funding for the Dixie Softball State Tournament Hosted by the

Bellevue Girls Softball Association, Inc. (Budget Impact - Neutral; expenditure of up to \$12,012)

The Board accepted the following recommendation as presented by Tourist Development Director Loretta Schaffer:

Description/Background: The Tourist Development Council (TDC) seeks funding approval for organizations that have festivals, events, or programs which support the TDC's mission of growing the economy and accelerating prosperity in Marion County through effective destination sales and marketing. The Room Night Generating Event Funding Program is intended to position Marion County as a must-experience destination in Florida through bringing quality events and initiatives to Marion County. This funding contract is for the Dixie Softball State Tournament hosted by Bellevue Girls Softball Association, Inc. to be held June 25-29, 2025, at Bellevue Sportsplex. The estimated economic impact for this event is \$1,697,760 and is anticipated to produce a 268% return on investment. This event was recommended for funding by the TDC at their regularly scheduled meeting on March 28, 2025, in the amount of \$12,012.

Budget/Impact: Neutral; expenditure of up to \$12,012. Funding from CP15552-548101.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve the Tourist Development Council funding request and authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute the attached funding agreement.

7.8.2. Request Approval of Tourist Development Council Funding Request for City of Ocala, for Benefit of, the Recreation and Parks Division/Department for the Patriotic Skies Event (Budget Impact - Neutral; expenditure of \$6,100)

The Board accepted the following recommendation as presented by Tourist Development Director Loretta Schaffer:

Description/Background: The Tourist Development Council (TDC) seeks funding approval for organizations that have festivals, events, or programs which support the TDC's mission of growing the economy and accelerating prosperity in Marion County through effective destination sales and marketing. This funding contract is for the 2025 Patriotic Skies hosted by City of Ocala benefitting the Recreation and Parks Division/Department to be held July 4th, 2025, at Tusawilla Park. This event was recommended for funding in the amount of \$6,100 by the TDC at their regularly scheduled meeting on May 21, 2025.

Budget/Impact: Neutral; expenditure of \$6,100. Funding from CP15552-548101.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve the Tourist Development Council funding request and authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute attached funding agreement. Approval of this agreement is an acknowledgement that the event promotes tourism in the State of Florida and one of its primary purposes is the attraction of tourists.

7.9. Transportation - County Engineer:

7.9.1. Request Approval of a Florida Department of Transportation State - Funded Grant Supplemental Agreement and Resolution for Design of the Proposed Dunnellon Trail Project in Marion County (Budget Impact - Neutral)

The Board accepted the following recommendation to adopt Resolution 25-R-176 as presented by County Engineer Steven Cohoon, Office of the County Engineer, (OCE):

Description/Background: The County previously entered into a State-Funded Grant Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), for Grant Agreement Contract Number G2F85, FPN 450918-1-34-01 also known as the Dunnellon Trail project, on behalf of the City of Dunnellon.

At the May 21, 2024, meeting of the Marion County Board of County Commissioners (BCC), a letter from the City of Dunnellon was presented for notation, formally requesting the termination of the Dunnellon Trail Project. The project, identified by FDOT Financial Project Numbers 450918-1-34-01 (design) and 450918-1-54-01 (construction), was originally planned to enhance regional trail connectivity and recreational opportunities. However, the City cited feasibility concerns and a reassessment of the project's overall benefit as reasons for seeking its cancellation.

This Supplemental Agreement (SA) documents the reduction in the Scope of Work. Funding is unchanged, with the Grant amount remaining \$375,000.00. The limits of the project are 50 feet west of Adams Street to the Blue Run of Dunnellon Park, along CR 484 (aka Pennsylvania Avenue), for a total length of approximately 0.12 miles. However, the multi-use trail limits are reduced to a pedestrian crossing along the CR 484 bridge, connecting to Blue Run Park. The overall project limits will provide for three (3) crosswalks, including midblock crossings with Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs).

Budget/Impact: Neutral - \$375,000.00 grant reimbursement for design accounted for in original Agreement; unaffected by this Supplemental Grant Agreement.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve the attached Supplemental Grant Agreement and Resolution, and authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute the same.

Resolution 25-R-176 is entitled:

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA, APPROVING A STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION STATE-FUNDED GRANT SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT, AND AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR AND CLERK TO EXECUTE SAME; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

7.9.2. Request Approval of a Florida Department of Transportation State - Funded Grant Supplemental Agreement and Resolution for Construction of the Proposed Dunnellon Trail Project in Marion County (Budget Impact - Decrease; reduction in grant and estimated expenditures by \$589,417)

The Board accepted the following recommendation to adopt Resolution 25-R-177 as presented by County Engineer Cohoon, OCE:

Description/Background: The County previously entered into a State-Funded Grant Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), for Grant Agreement Contract Number G2L16 FPN 450918-1-54-01, also known as the Dunnellon Trail Project, on behalf of the City of Dunnellon.

At the May 21, 2024 meeting of the Marion County Board of County Commissioners (BCC), a letter from the City of Dunnellon was presented for notation, formally requesting the termination of the Dunnellon Trail Project. The project, identified by FDOT Financial Project Numbers 450918-1-34-01 (design)

and 450918-1-54-01 (construction), was originally planned to enhance regional trail connectivity and recreational opportunities. However, the City cited feasibility concerns and a reassessment of the project's overall benefit as reasons for seeking its cancellation.

This Supplemental Agreement (SA) reflects the reduction of Construction Funding in the amount of (\$589,417.00) resulting from the reduced Scope of Work. The revised Supplemental Grant Agreement Amount is \$2,162,000.00. The limits of the project are 50 feet west of Adams Street to the Blue Run of Dunnellon Park, along CR 484 (aka Pennsylvania Avenue), for a total length of approximately 0.12 miles. However, the multi-use trail limits are reduced to a pedestrian crossing along the CR 484 bridge, connecting to Blue Run Park. The overall project limits will provide for three (3) crosswalks, including midblock crossings with Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs).

Budget/Impact: Decrease; reduction in grant and estimated project expenditures by \$589,417.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve the attached Supplemental Grant Agreement and Resolution, and authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute the same.

Resolution 25-R-177 is entitled:

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA, APPROVING A STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION STATE-FUNDED GRANT SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT, AND AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR AND CLERK TO EXECUTE SAME; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

7.9.3. Request to Approve a Resolution Associated with a Release of Easement Between Marion County and the State of Florida Department of Transportation for Parcel Numbers 3196-002-005 and 3196-002-006 Related to a Road Construction Project on State Road 40 (Budget Impact - None)

The Board accepted the following recommendation to adopt Resolution 25-R-178 as presented by County Engineer Cohoon, OCE:

Description/Background: This is a request to approve a Resolution associated with a Release of Easement between Marion County and the State of Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for parcels 3196-002-005 and 3196-002-006 related to a road construction project on SR 40. The parcels are located in the southwest corner of the SR 40 and NE 175th Terrace Road intersection.

The Release of Easement was previously approved by the Board of County Commissioners on November 5, 2024, and recorded on November 11, 2024, OR BK 8477 PGS 942-944. However, FDOT requested that a Resolution also be provided for this action.

Budget/Impact: None.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve the attached Resolution and authorize Chairman and Clerk to execute the same.

7.9.4. Request Approval of Marion County Subdivision Improvement Agreement with Surety Bond for R.L.R. Investments, LLC for Debonair Estates Phases 1 and 2 Subdivision, Application Number 32856 (Budget Impact - None)

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The Board accepted the following recommendation as presented by County Engineer Cohoon, OCE:

Description/Background: The Debonair Estates Phases 1 and 2 Final Plat is being considered concurrently with this Subdivision Improvement Agreement with Surety Bond. Land Development Code Section 2.18.4.D states that a security, limited to an irrevocable letter of credit, bond, or other form approved by the County Attorney, shall be provided in the amount of 120 percent of the estimated cost of remaining improvements.

The County Attorney's office has reviewed and approved the Subdivision Improvement Agreement with Surety Bond in the amount of \$5,645,034.94, including landscaping. This subdivision is located in the western portion of the County containing 79 lots, 9 tracts, and 1.53 miles of road on approximately 131.81 acres.

Budget/Impact: None.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve the attached Marion County Subdivision Improvement Agreement with Surety Bond and to authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute the same.

7.9.5. Request Approval of Marion County Subdivision Improvement Agreement with Surety Bond for Spires 27, LLC for Spires 27 Apartments, Project 2022030292 (Budget Impact - None)

The Board accepted the following recommendation as presented by County Engineer Cohoon, OCE:

Description/Background: Land Development Code (LDC) Section 2.18.4.D states that a security, limited to an irrevocable letter of credit, bond, or other form approved by the County Attorney, shall be provided in the amount of 120 percent of the estimated cost of remaining improvements.

Spires previously requested to pay \$370,061.34 into the County's Tree Mitigation Fund in lieu of installing replacement trees. The Board approved this request during their regular meeting on July 18, 2023. Spires believes they are able to plant most, if not all required replacement trees, and seeks to rescind their obligation to pay the total amount, or pay a much-reduced amount. In order to meet project timelines, they have provided a Subdivision Improvement Agreement with Bond in the amount of \$196,800.00.

This apartment complex is located in the northwest central portion of the County on approximately 27.07 acres.

Budget/Impact: None.

Recommended Action: Motion to rescind approval for the \$370,061.34 payment into the County's Tree Mitigation Fund, allow a reduced payment if necessary, approve the attached Marion County Subdivision Improvement Agreement with Surety Bond, and authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute the same.

8. COUNTY ATTORNEY:

8.1. Request Consideration of Reduction and/or Release of Civil Restitution Lien for Robert Strickland

County Attorney Matthew G. Minter, Legal, presented the following recommendation:

Description/Background: On May 15, 2025, the County Attorney's Office received a request from Robert Strickland for a Release/Reduction of his Civil Restitution

Lien from Case No. 2012-CT-2874, recorded at OR Book 5685, Page 478 on June 5, 2012. Mr. Strickland is requesting a reduction of the Civil Restitution/Cost of Incarceration Lien totaling \$7,791.98, with \$4,500.00 remaining in judgment and \$3,291.98 in interest.

On April 12, 2012, Mr. Strickland was arrested for Driving While License Suspended, Revoked, Canceled, Prior Offense (First Degree Misdemeanor) in Case No. 2012-CT-2874. On April 13, 2012, he was sentenced to 90 days in Jail; the Court imposed a Judgment of Cost of incarceration of \$4,500.00 (sentence 90 days x \$50 per day). He served 89 days in the Marion County jail and was an Inmate Worker for 73 days. Therefore, he was in jail for 16 days where he was not an inmate worker. He has paid all other fines and court costs for this case.

Budget/Impact: None.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve or deny Robert Strickland's request for a Reduction and/or Release of the Civil Restitution Lien recorded in OR Book 5685, Page 478 on June 5, 2012.

County Attorney Mathew G. Minter, Legal, provided a brief overview of the Civil Restitution Liens. He advised that Robert Strickland is unique in his circumstance, noting he was an inmate worker for 73 out of 89 days he served in jail. Mr. Minter stated Mr. Strickland is requesting a reduction or elimination of his Civil Restitution Liens and the accrued interest.

Commissioner Stone advised that historically how the Board has handled these matters in the past is applying a credit for the days served as an inmate worker, which would reduce the amount owed. She stated there is also the opportunity for the Board to waive the interest.

Mr. Minter stated \$800.00 would be the remaining amount if the reduction is applied.

Robert Strickland, 80th Avenue, Chiefland, confirmed he has been advised on the process.

Chairman Bryant gave a brief overview of how the BCC typically handles Civil Restitution Liens.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stone, seconded by Commissioner Zalak, to waive all interest fees, credit the 73 days as an inmate worker and reduce the total lien to \$800.00. The motion passed unanimously by the Board (4-0).

8.2. Request Approval of Amended and Restated Initial Assessment Resolution for Fire Rescue

County Attorney Minter, Legal, presented the following recommendation:

Description/Background: The attached Amended and Restated Initial Assessment Resolution has been prepared to provide for rate increases necessary to fund the proposed Marion County Fire Rescue budget for FY 2025-26. A form of notice is attached to the resolution.

Budget/Impact: None.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve the Amended and Restated Initial Assessment Resolution for Fire Rescue.

County Attorney Minter, Legal, gave a brief overview of the amended and restated Resolution and introduced the County's outside council, Heather Encinosa.

Heather Encinosa, Nabors Giblin and Nickerson, Mahan Drive, Tallahassee, advised that the Initial Assessment Resolution is the first step in approving the new updated report. She stated this Resolution makes certain Legislative findings and establishes

apportionment methodology, noting this was gone through in the prior workshop. Ms. Encinosa advised that Section 10 of the Resolution establishes the maximum assessed cost and the maximum assessment rates. She provided an overview of how these rates are determined. Ms. Encinosa stated the Resolution directs the preparation of the assessment role, noting it also establishes the September 10, 2025 public hearing. The public hearing is where the BCC will make the final decision. She provided a brief overview for the procedure of this hearing.

Chairman Bryant questioned whether the Ordinance on the public hearing date has an established time. Ms. Encinosa advised that it is set for 2:00 p.m. on September 10, 2025. Chairman Bryant stated the public has not had an opportunity to comment on this, noting she'd like to adjust the time to 5:30 p.m. on September 10, 2025.

General discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Commissioner Zalak, seconded by Commissioner McClain, to adopt the Amended and Restated Initial Assessment Resolution 25-R-179 for Fire Rescue and adjust the hearing time to 5:30 p.m. on September 10, 2025. The motion passed unanimously (4-0).

(Ed. Note: this matter was addressed later in the meeting.)

Commissioner Zalak expressed his gratitude for Ms. Encinosa's work on the committee for tax issues with the Florida Association of Counties (FAC).

General discussion ensued.

8.3. Request Authorization to Proceed with the Filing of Legal Action for an Abatement of a Nuisance (Remove Unsafe Building/Structure) on Property Owned by the Estates of Christal Norris and Carl Norris

County Attorney Minter, Legal, presented the following recommendation:

Description/Background: The County Attorney is requesting authorization to proceed with the filing of a complaint to abate a nuisance and remove unsafe buildings/structures on property currently owned by the Estates of Christal Norris and Carl Norris. The property owners died in 2011 and 2017. The owners' daughter is not living on the property and her whereabouts in the County are unknown. Code Enforcement initiated its case in 2023 and obtained two (2) orders from the Code Enforcement Board, resulting in Code Enforcement cleaning up the junk and debris which existed on the property. During the cleanup, the unsafe structure was discovered. Squatters currently occupy the structure now deemed unsafe and are maintaining the property in a public nuisance condition. Code Enforcement is within its authority to abate the nuisance by removing the unsafe structures; however, due to the buildings being occupied and there being no readily identifiable owner, the County Attorney recommends filing an injunction of nuisance action with the 5th Judicial Circuit Court to obtain a Court Order to allow the removal of the unsafe structures on the property.

Budget/Impact: None.

Recommended Action: Motion to authorize County Attorney to proceed with legal action for an abatement of a nuisance by removing unsafe structures.

County Attorney Minter, Legal, stated the County does not currently have any provisions in the Code regarding authorization to initiate civil actions for abatement relating to whether or not Legal needs Board authorization. He opined that in the absence of an expressed provision, the BCC should be who authorizes any legal action against someone; however, it would be in the Boards best interest to add language to the County

Code for cases that meet a well-defined set of circumstances to give staff some ability to proceed without the Board.

Mr. Minter advised that this particular case in requesting a specific authorization for an abatement of a nuisance.

Assistant County Attorney, Linda Blackburn, Legal, noted Supervisor Robin Hough, Code Enforcement is in attendance with her today. She stated Code Enforcement went through the motions for abating the nuisance for junk and debris and found that there is an unsafe structure on the property. Ms. Blackburn advised that Florida Statutes (FS) allows them to get an injunction to abate the nuisance. She stated the County Ordinance stipulates they can do that on their own, but in this particular situation the owners have passed and there are now occupants that are not owners. Ms. Blackburn advised that she is seeking Circuit Court approval to enjoin the nuisance.

Commissioner Zalak questioned whether there is something in the Ordinance that needs to be modified to be able to expedite the process. He commented on the issue of squatters in vacant properties. Ms. Blackburn clarified the Ordinance currently allows Code Enforcement to abate the nuisance and remove the unsafe structure with a building official's approval. She stated the additional oversight staff are looking for is because there is nonowner occupants in this property.

A motion was made by Commissioner Zalak, seconded by Commissioner Stone, to approve and authorize County Attorney to proceed with legal action for an abatement of a nuisance by removing unsafe structures. The motion passed unanimously (4-0).

9. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR:

9.1. Update on the Reassignment Request of Lake County from Medical Examiner District 5 to District 24

County Administrator Mounir Bouyounes, Administration, presented the following recommendation:

Description/Background: At the May 14, 2025, Medical Examiner Advisory Committee meeting, Seminole and Lake County presented a plan to the Committee for consideration of the reassignment of Lake County from Medical Examiner District 5 to District 24. The plan provided two options for the committee to support the reassignment and make what they believe to be a successful transition. Both options have been approved by the Boards of County Commissioners for both Lake County (LAKE) and Seminole County (SEMINOLE).

Option One (1):

- LAKE and SEMINOLE operate as District 24 in the current location at 809 Pine Street, Leesburg, Florida 32748.
- District 5 builds a new building and transfers to the facility by the end of the term of the current operating agreement.
- District 5 fully supports the reassignment of LAKE to District 24 and writes a letter of support to the State's Medical Examiner commission supporting this.
- All parties agree that if District 5 is working diligently in good faith to complete the construction of the new facility, and a delay should occur, the current operating agreement will be extended by all parties to mitigate the impact of this delay without changing any other terms in the agreement.

- LAKE and SEMINOLE agree to pay some reasonable portion of the cost incurred by Marion County (MARION) after a review of the documents requested by SEMIOLE in their March 31, 2025, letter to Marion.

Option Two (2):

- LAKE and SEMINOLE operate as District 24 in a new location within the newly formed District 24 boundary by the end of the term of the current operating agreement.
- District 5 operates in the current location at 809 Pine Street, Leesburg, Florida 32748.
- District 5 fully supports the reassignment of LAKE to District 24 and writes a letter of support other the State's Medical Examiner commission supporting this.
- All parties agree that if District 24 is working diligently in good faith to complete the construction of the new facility, and a delay should occur, the current operating agreement will be extended by all parties to mitigate the impact of this delay without changing any other terms

Both LAKE and SEMINOLE believe that either of these options will provide for a fair and amicable transition that will not impact services to any constituents.

In addition to the options provided by Lake and Seminole County, Marion County staff has provided this board with the following options to consider:

Option One (1):

- Maintain both districts' make up as is currently.
- Maximize the use of the existing site in Leesburg for both districts and plan on constructing a satellite facility in Summerfield to add capacity when needed.
- Reexamine the cost allocation methodology to address all concerns.

Option Two (2):

- District 24 (Seminole County) exits the partnership and operates its own facility at a location to be determined by the end of the current agreement.
- Lake County reconsiders its reassignment request and stays in District 5.
- District 5 reexamines the cost allocation methodology to address all concerns.
- District 5 reexamines its capacity needs in light of the new workload due to Seminole County leaving and develop a new plan using the existing building in Leesburg and build a satellite office in Summerfield when needed.

Option Three (3):

- Lake County reassigned to District 24 and together with Seminole County construct and operate a new facility at a location to be determine and relocate by the end of the current operating agreement.
- District 5 continues to operate in the current location in Leesburg.
- District 5 obtains clear title to the existing facility in Leesburg thru an arrangement with Lake County.
- District 5 reexamines existing capacity at the current building and plan accordingly based on the new workload due to Lake and Seminole leaving.
- District 5 will not object to the reassignment of Lake County as requested.

Option Four (4):

- Lake County reassigned to District 24 to join Seminole County.

- District 24 continues to operate in the current location in Leesburg.
- District 24 obtains a clear title to the existing facility thru an arrangement with District 5.
- District 5 will not object to the reassignment of Lake County as requested.
- District 5 reexamines its capacity plan and continues to operate in the current facility in Leesburg until state and local funds are secured to construct a new facility in Summerfield.

Budget/Impact: To be determined based on final agreements between the districts.

Recommended Action: Discussion and direction to Staff to bring back an option to the Medical Examiner Advisory Committee meeting on June 19, 2025.

County Administrator Bouyounes gave a brief overview of the original 2 options presented by Seminole County and Lake County on pages 1541 and 1542 of the Agenda Packet. He stated in addition to those options Marion County staff are providing another 4 options to be considered, noting they are minor variations from what Lake County provided except Option 1. Mr. Bouyounes advised that Option 1 will provide that the BCC is willing to go back and reexamine the cost allocation, which was a major issue for Lake County. He stated he would like direction from the Board on what to present for the June 19, 2025 Medical Examiner Committee meeting. Mr. Bouyounes advised that he heard from Sumter County and Hernando County and both Boards have decided to go with Option 2 that was presented by Lake County and Seminole County. He clarified that Option 2 states District 5 will continue operating from the existing building in Leesburg for as long as there is capacity, noting this will give the opportunity to Lake and Seminole to have their exit plan by the end of the existing agreement that is currently in place. Mr. Bouyounes advised that Citrus County has always stated they are in support of whatever Marion County recommends.

Chairman Bryant stated Commissioner Stone has been the Liaison for this process and requested her input.

Commissioner Stone opined that it is important to give several options to the Medical Examiner Board, which would show that every outcome has been looked at and considered to keep District 5 together. She advised that if Lake County is still insistent on leaving that Marion County wants to maintain that building, noting this is the direction of other Counties as well. Commissioner Stone stated at the last meeting, all of the Counties shared that they would like Lake County to reconsider their position and stay with District 5. She opined other options should be included in the presentation, notably Option 3. Commissioner Stone clarified Option 3 reassigns Lake County; however, it says operations will remain in the current building with Marion County holding the clear title to the current property. She advised that the meeting on June 19, 2025, will have more conversation taking place with all 6 Counties, noting several options will be in front of the Medical Examiners Board.

Mr. Bouyounes stated if the Board decides to go with Option 2 presented by Lake County, then he would like permission to present all options in case it ends up in front of the Medical Examiner's Commission to show they have tried everything to make it financially feasible for all parties. He advised that Option 2 from Seminole County is requesting a letter from the BCC in support of Lake County's exit; however, Commissioner Stone emphasized at the meeting that the BCC will not recommend this letter. Mr. Bouyounes clarified that Commissioner Stone did say the Board would consider a letter of no objection.

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Commissioner Stone opined that she does not want to see District 5 break-up, noting this includes other pieces and stakeholders, such as the Sheriff and Public Defender's Office. Chairman Bryant questioned whether those entities have weighed in on the matter. Commissioner Stone stated they previously expressed being against the break-up, but that many of them were blindsided and unaware that this was being considered.

Commissioner McClain opined that if the Board goes with Option 2, they already know the facility is over capacity and not adequate for what the County needs.

Commissioner Stone stated this would not be the case if they lost Lake County.

Commissioner McClain expressed concern on how long Marion County would still be stuck with the workload of Lake County while the MCBCC go through the process of either locating or building a new facility. He stated if just Seminole County were to leave then they could regain some of that capacity, but if both were to leave with no timeline the County would be stuck in an inadequate facility.

Chairman Bryant stated the BCC has expressed the desire for Seminole County to leave. Commissioner Stone advised that originally all parties were petitioning for a new building from the State Legislature, noting this was put on hold because of the current situation.

Commissioner McClain stated Lake County has been committed to this project, noting for them to say they are going to leave some time in the future while staying in the current facility forcing staff to operate out of the same building is not right. He opined that if either Seminole County or Lake County want to leave they would need to do so now.

Mr. Bouyounes clarified that the Proposal in Option 2 is to leave at the end of the existing contract, which was signed in October of 2024 and is valid for 5 years.

General discussion ensued.

Mr. Minter advised that there would be some legal issues amongst the Counties on this matter. He stated if an individual County wanted to leave, it could do so upon giving the required notice in the agreement.

Chairman Bryant passed the gavel to Commissioner Zalak who assumed the Chair.

Commissioner Bryant out at 10:51 a.m.

Mr. Minter opined that it is his personal interpretation of the agreement that other Counties can't force an individual County to leave. He advised that the Medical Examiner Committee cannot vote a County out, noting they can remain for the balance of the contract ending in 2029.

Commissioner Stone questioned whether the estimated \$30,000.00 they have not agreed to pay at the moment is enough grievance to ask for their exit. Mr. Minter advised that the Board could utilize the disputed Resolution procedure, but there are other issues related to that estimate he will discuss during one-on-ones with the BCC.

Commissioner Bryant returned at 10:53 a.m.

Chairman Zalak returned the gavel to Commissioner Bryant, who resumed the Chair.

General discussion ensued.

Mr. Bouyounes stated that the request from these 2 Counties is to separate the 2 Districts and reassign a member of District 5 to District 24. He opined that for this to work the Board would need a unanimous decision on a new agreement for separation, noting the operation agreement is in place for 5 years.

Commissioner McClain questioned why an agreement would be needed to separate the two. He commented on Mr. Minter's statement regarding Lake County and Seminole County's freedom to leave, noting the issue at hand is the building. Mr. Minter advised that for Lake County to leave they would need approval from the State, but Seminole County can leave at any point.

General discussion ensued.

Mr. Minter stated there are two main issues relating to the building; the October, 2024, Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with certain provisions that have to be followed and the deed from Lake County to Marion County of the building. He advised that the deeds are not parallel with each other, noting the deed provides that the building would automatically revert to Lake County upon ceasing to be used as a Medical Examiners facility for all 6 Counties. He gave a brief overview of the language in the deed. Mr. Minter clarified that the October, 2024, ILA does not talk about a reverter, but it does say in summary that in such time that Marion County would complete the new building then Marion County would deed the Leesburg facility back to Lake County.

Commissioner Zalak opined that this means the BCC needs to be unanimously opposed to Lake County leaving.

Commissioner Stone advised that all 6 Counties should be continuing to operate there for it to remain a good clear title.

Commissioner Zalak stated litigation could be held on this question over the next 5 years, noting the Courts could decide.

Mr. Minter stated when they come together at the June 19, 2025, meeting it will give the opportunity to further discuss the issues; however, mediating this through the meetings would be more ideal than going to court because of time delays.

Commissioner McClain stated he has a hard time believing the departure of 1 County could direct the facility back to Lake County.

Mr. Minter stated the issue of the reverter is more for the benefit of Lake County than it is for Seminole County, noting Lake County owned the property. He opined that he does not think Seminole County would be the ones to claim it reverts, noting that if Lake County wanted to stay in District 5 they wouldn't be making the claim.

Commissioner McClain stated if Seminole County decided to leave there would only be 5 Counties remaining, which would require the building to revert back to Lake County.

Mr. Minter advised that they could make that argument; however, the party that would be the one to assert that right (that it automatically reverts) would be Lake County rather than Seminole County. He stated if Seminole County wanted to leave by themselves that he does not think Lake County would want to exercise the reverter even if they thought they had that right. Mr. Minter advised that Seminole County never owned the building; therefore they would have no right to press the issue.

Commissioner Zalak opined that none of these problems are actual issues because unless Marion County builds another building and moves out with the other 4 or 5 Counties then it makes no sense for Seminole County and Lake County to pursue this. He stated those Counties are worried about the cost allocation of a small dollar amount; however, if Marion County does not move out then they cannot save any money. He commented on the funds it would take for them to operate on their own operation.

Commissioner Stone advised that Seminole County has a separate agreement with Dr. Barbara C. Wolf, Districts 5 and 24 Medical Examiner, to provide services. She stated if Seminole County leaves today, they are still under agreement.

Commissioner Zalak questioned whether the Agreement Seminole County has with Dr. Wolf specifically stipulates operating within the facility. Commissioner Stone advised that their ability to operate in that facility is with the ILA that all parties have signed; however, even if they leave, they will continue to be serviced by Dr. Wolf and her team. She stated that Dr. Wolf has stated she will not operate out of funeral homes.

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Commissioner Zalak opined that he would like to have a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Medical Examiner Services, noting one has not been done in some time. He stated the RFP would offer transparency.

Commissioner Stone advised she is unsure of when that contract expires, but that it is worth looking into. She stated the Medical Examiner Advisory Board would all have to vote to agree.

Commissioner Zalak opined that there has been enough controversy and turmoil in this situation that there has not been enough good faith put there.

Mr. Bouyounes advised that if the Board is leaning toward Option 2 there are a lot of details that still need to be worked out; however, it may or may not be a new agreement to organize that separation. He opined that they should not take anything said in a meeting with the other Counties as a commitment, noting any agreement should be in writing with details and signed by all parties.

Commissioner Stone stated additionally the Counties are looking to turn the decision back to the Medical Examiner Board. She advised that they are not considering meetings to talk to the stakeholders and work through details.

Commissioner Zalak stated he had heard from State Attorney Bill Gladson that he was not in favor of the separation. He expressed concern with bringing bureaucracy into police investigations of suspicious deaths. Commissioner Zalak opined that until the issues with the deed for the building are settled the Board shouldn't let Lake County out.

Chairman Bryant opined that the best thing to do in relation to a letter of support is to have letters from the stakeholders and then go along with them in lockstep because of the points that have been raised. She advised that it could complicate death investigations.

Commissioner Zalak questioned whether the State Attorney had made comments to Commissioner Stone as well. Commissioner Stone stated she spoke with him. She advised that the BCC has asked the representative from Lake County, Commissioner Parks, to go back to his Board and share on behalf of all of District 5 that Marion County does not want to see them leave. Commissioner Stone stated the Board is very open to negotiations like reviewing the cost allocation in an attempt to keep District 5 together.

General discussion ensued.

Chairman Bryant stated the BCC wants to present more than just the two options because it is in the County's best interest. She stated staff will need to reach out to stakeholders and get some concrete letters stating their position on the issues. Chairman Bryant advised that the Board will not issue a letter of support for Lake County to leave and break up the District.

Mr. Bouyounes questioned whether it is Option 2 that Marion County the BCC has decided to go with. Commissioner Stone advised that is the intention; however, the clouded title issues need to be addressed.

Commissioner Zalak stated if Lake County stays, then the title problem is no longer an issue.

General discussion ensued.

Commissioner Stone advised that the Board should amend Option 2 to include the removal of the reverter clause and the property stays with Marion County to clear the title. Commissioner Zalak opined that the other Option 2 presented by Lake County would be fine, but the criminal investigation interference is still an issue and considerable factor in this decision.

Chairman Bryant stated the Board could move forward with Option 2 with those supporting documents from the stakeholders and a letter from the BCC in opposition.

Mr. Minter advised that Seminole County is in the 18th Judicial Circuit, noting we are in the 5th Judicial Circuit. He stated Seminole County's current State Attorney for the 18th Judicial Circuit's autopsies are being performed here.

Commissioner Zalak opined that they should have a list of concerns from the State Attorney's Offices in relation to their process for autopsies to avoid hindering investigations in suspicious deaths.

Commissioner Stone advised that if Lake County wants to leave then the Board should consider Option 3. This allows them to leave while keeping the clear title with Marion County.

Commissioner Stone questioned whether there is any reason they can't provide 4 different options.

Commissioner McClain stated he has a problem with the absence of a timeline, noting there should be one that is less than 5 years to avoid being in an inadequate facility for the remainder of the ILA.

Mr. Bouyounes advised that the BCC can move forward with Option 2 and Option 3. He stated they can modify Option 2 to clean the title and Option 3 to have a timeline for them to leave to reflect the Board's desires.

Commissioner Stone clarified that they have the 2 options that have been presented by Seminole County and Lake County along with Option 2 and Option 3 that Marion County has provided to have 4 total different options to discuss and present for the Medical Examiner Board to consider.

General discussion ensued.

Commissioner Stone advised that the Medical Examiner Board will be looking for the parties to agree.

Chairman Bryant stated this is why this process will prove they have given viable options.

Mr. Minter clarified stakeholders refer to the 5th Judicial Circuit State Attorney, the Public Defender for the 5th Judicial Circuit and Sheriffs from all Counties involved

A motion was made by Commissioner Stone, seconded by Commissioner Zalak, to present the following options to the Medical Examiner Advisory Committee meeting on June 19, 2025: Marion County's Option 2 along with letters of position from District 5 stakeholders; and Marion County Option 3 including a timeline should Lake County be reassigned to District 24 to exit the current facility in the amount of 18 months; with both options Marion County will maintain possession of the facility.

Chairman Zalak requested "District 5 will not object to the reassignment of Lake County as requested" be removed from the Option 3 language.

General discussion ensued.

The motion was unanimously approved by the Board (4-0).

10. COMMITTEE ITEMS: NONE

11. NOTATION FOR ACTION:

11.1. Request Approval to Sign Letter of Support for Vice Chair Carl Zalak's Nomination to be Considered to Serve as a Florida Member on the National Association of Counties Board of Directors

Executive Assistant Jennifer Clark, Commission Office, presented the following recommendation:

June 3, 2025

Description/Background: The Florida Association of Counties (FAC) is seeking nominations for the Florida seats on the National Association of Counties (NACo) Board of Directors. The FAC Executive Committee will deliberate on submissions received and make recommendations to the full FAC Board of Directors at its meeting during the FAC Annual Conference on June 25, 2025. Final appointments will be made by the NACo Board of Directors at their Annual Conference in July 2025.

Vice Chair Zalak has expressed interest in seeking a nomination. He has been a committed member of FAC and NACo since his election in 2010. He currently serves as a member of the NACo Environment, Energy and Land Use Steering Committee and the NACo Information Technology Standing Committee.

Budget/Impact: None.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve the Chairman signing the letter of support for Vice Chair Carl Zalak's nomination to be considered to serve as a Florida member on the NACo Board of Directors.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stone, seconded by Commissioner McClain, to approve the Chairman signing the letter of support for Vice Chair Carl Zalak's nomination to be considered to serve as a Florida member on the NACo Board of Directors. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board (4-0)

11.2. Request Approval to Schedule a Special Board Meeting on Thursday, July 24, 2025 at 1:30 p.m. in the McPherson Governmental Campus Auditorium to Set the Proposed (Maximum) Millage Rates and Schedule the First Public Hearings for FY 2025-26

County Administrator Bouyounes, Administration, presented the following recommendation:

Description/Background: On or before August 4 of each year, the Board of County Commissioners shall advise the Property Appraiser of the proposed millage rates, the rolled-back rates, and the date, time, and place at which the public hearings will be held to consider the proposed millage rates and the tentative budget. {Florida Statutes Section 200.065(2)(b)} The following date is being requested for a Special Board Meeting.

Thursday, July 24, 2025 at 1:30 p.m.

Budget/Impact: None.

Recommended Action: Motion to schedule a special board meeting on Thursday, July 24, 2025 at 1:30 p.m. in the Mcpherson Governmental campus auditorium to set the proposed (maximum) millage rates and schedule the first public hearings for FY 2025-26.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stone, seconded by Commissioner McClain, to schedule a Special Board Meeting on Thursday, July 24, 2025 at 1:30 p.m. in the McPherson Government Campus auditorium to set the proposed (maximum) millage rates and schedule the first public hearings for FY 2025-26. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board (4-0).

11.3. Request Approval to Schedule and Advertise a Public Hearing for East Lake - Woodmar Road Improvement on Wednesday, August 6, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. in the McPherson Governmental Campus Auditorium

Municipal Services Director Chad Wicker presented the following recommendation:

Description/Background: Bids were received and reviewed by Procurement; MSTU can now move forward with a Public Hearing. The following date is being requested for a final Public Hearing in accordance with Florida Statutes.

Wednesday, August 6, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.

Budget/Impact: None.

Recommended Action: Motion to schedule and advertise a final Public Hearing for East Lake - Woodmar Road Improvement project on Wednesday, August 6, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. in the McPherson Governmental Campus Auditorium.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stone, seconded by Commissioner McClain, to schedule and advertise a Public Hearing for East Lake - Woodmar Road Improvement project on Wednesday, August 6, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. in the McPherson Government Campus auditorium. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board (4-0).

11.4. Request Approval to Schedule and Advertise a Public Hearing to Adopt Annual Rate Resolutions and Certify Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Rolls for Fire Rescue, Solid Waste and Stormwater Services on Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. in the McPherson Governmental Campus Auditorium

Municipal Services Director Wicker presented the following recommendation:

Description/Background: This is a request to schedule and advertise a Public Hearing to adopt annual rate resolutions and certify the non-ad valorem assessment rolls for fire rescue, solid waste and stormwater services. These annual rate resolutions are required to be adopted on an annual basis per Florida Statutes.

Budget/Impact: None.

Recommended Action: Motion to schedule and advertise a public hearing to adopt annual rate resolutions and certify non-ad valorem assessment rolls for fire rescue, solid waste and stormwater services on Wednesday, September 10, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. in the McPherson Governmental Campus Auditorium.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stone, seconded by Commissioner McClain, to schedule and advertise a public hearing to adopt annual rate Resolutions and certify non-ad valorem assessment rolls for Fire Rescue, Solid Waste and Stormwater services on Tuesday, September 10, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter in the McPherson Governmental Campus Auditorium. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board (4-0).

11.5. WALK-ON: Request Approval to Schedule Public Hearing for the Resolution to Adopt a Special Assessment to be Imposed on Marion County Hospitals related to Enhanced Medicaid Reimbursements on Tuesday, July 1, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. in the McPherson Governmental Campus Auditorium

A motion was made by Commissioner Stone, seconded by Commissioner Zalak, to consider the Walk-On Item. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board (4-0).

County Attorney Minter, Legal, presented the following recommendation:

Description/Background: The following date and time are being requested to conduct the required public hearing and accommodate the required advertising to consider the proposed Resolution:

- Tuesday, July 1, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. or as soon thereafter, in the McPherson Governmental Campus Auditorium

Budget/Impact: None.

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Recommended Action: Motion to schedule and advertise Board of County Commissioners Public Hearing for the Resolution to Adopt a Special Assessment to be Imposed on Marion County Hospitals related to Enhanced Medicaid Reimbursements on Tuesday, July 1, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. in the McPherson Governmental Campus Auditorium.

Mr. Minter provided a brief overview of the Board's involvement with the Medicaid Reimbursement through Special Assessment program.

Chairman Bryant opened the floor to public comment.

There being none, Chairman Bryant advised that public comment is now closed.

Commissioner Zalak clarified that Marion County Hospitals want to change their taxation rate because federal law is going to change the rate at which they receive their taxes back. He stated the program is still the same one; however, they put the taxes in a fund and then get a rebate back on those taxes based on federal income tax law.

Mr. Minter advised that depending on what happens with the Federal budget, there is a potential that whatever rate is in effect could be locked in and would not be able to change in the future. He stated this would result in an increase in the assessment rate for the benefit of the hospital and the public, noting the public will not be paying for these assessments.

A motion was made by Commissioner Zalak, seconded by Commissioner Stone, to schedule and advertise a public hearing to adopt a Special Assessment to be imposed on Marion County Hospitals related to Enhanced Medicaid Reimbursements on Tuesday, July 1, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. in the McPherson Governmental Campus auditorium. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board (4-0).

READDRESSSED:

Chairman Bryant advised that there is a revision to Agenda Item 1.2 (Faith and Family Month - Louine Ek) due to a scrivener's error. She stated the first line of the Proclamation originally was missing a word in it's title and has since been revised.

12. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Scheduled requests will be heard first and limited to five (5) minutes. Unscheduled speakers will be limited to two (2) minutes. Citizens may contact Marion County Administration by 5:00 p.m. the Friday before the meeting at 352-438-2300 to request to speak or sign up online at: www.marionfl.org.

Chairman Bryant opened the floor for public comment.

Charles Calhoun, SW 92nd Court, provided a 7-page handout entitled "Programs of the M.C.V.C." He expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to speak on behalf of Veterans for Marion County. Mr. Calhoun gave a brief overview on the current status of the Unclaimed Veterans burial program. He provided an update on the Hometown Heroes banners, noting they have a total of 20 up. Mr. Calhoun commented on the effort to recognize local first responders.

Commissioner Stone questioned what month this would encompass. Mr. Calhoun advised this would be 9/11 in September.

Mr. Calhoun gave a brief overview of several events coming up including the Veteran Stand Down on June 7, 2025 and Marion County Flag Day on June 15, 2025 at the Veteran's Memorial Park. He stated the shirt he is wearing today is a part of an effort to raise money and awareness for veterans with PTSD. Mr. Calhoun advised that the Marion

County Memorial Honor Guard has attended 81 Funerals, 37 ceremonies, and has 3 members who are a part of the Honor Flight.

Chairman Bryant expressed her gratitude for Mr. Calhoun and all of the work with programs he contributes.

Marybeth Bell, SW 89th Court Road, founder and CEO of Chuck's Piggy Bank stated their organization is a volunteer-only based 501(c)(3) nonprofit funded only by donations. She gave a brief overview of the founding of Chuck's Piggy Bank. Ms. Bell advised that Chuck's Piggy Bank currently offers two programs to the community, noting those are the Mobile Food Pantry and Chuck's Emergency Medical Fund offering 24/7 funding assistance for animals in rescue or foster care. She advised that Chuck's Piggy Bank partners with Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) of Marion County and the Florida Community Helping Animals in Need (CHAIN) in The Villages. Ms. Bell stated their Board has grown, noting their pantry delivery service has grown from 7 organizations to 20, with 12 volunteers. She advised that they partner with Marion County Animal Services to do a spay and neuter day along with a microchip and drive-thru vaccine clinic at Vets Helping Vets. Ms. Bell expressed her appreciation for Commissioner Stone's involvement in that partnership, noting that they hope to do this on a regular basis. She highlighted an initiative in food procurement through Pet Project of Florida, noting challenges relating to distance. To remedy this, Chuck's Piggy Bank rented a driver and large commercial van to supply the smaller rescues in the area with food. Ms. Bell advised that Pet Project of Florida is seeking a distribution site in central Florida and have expressed interest in Ocala. She commented on the minimum requirements Pet Project of Florida is seeking to possibly make this happen including a warehouse donation. Ms. Bell commented on the Unhoused Pet Protection Specialist (UPPS) program done in partnership with Interfaith Emergency Services' Homeless Services program and provided a brief overview of their work and mission. She requested the BCC assist in funding for the UPPS program.

Chairman Bryant expressed her gratitude for the partnership between Chuck's Piggy Bank and Marion County Animal Services (MCAS).

Louine Ek, SW 59th Street, advised that she will hang the "Faith and Family Month" proclamation at The Gathering Café.

Joseph Walker, SE 54th Place, Ocklawaha, expressed concern relating to illegal dumping by the Winn-Dixie off Highway 40.

Henry Munoz, Marion Oaks Boulevard, questioned whether it would be more beneficial to establish a Medical Examiner's building for Marion County. Chairman Bryant advised the cost of that would be astronomical.

Chairman Bryant advised that public comment is now closed.

13. COMMISSIONER ITEMS:

13.1. Commission Comments

Commissioner McClain advised that he had nothing further to add.

Commissioner Zalak commented on a Florida Association of Counties (FAC) project in relation to property taxes. He advised that State Legislature has appointed 37 members for a special Committee through November of 2026.

Commissioner Zalak questioned how the BCC is moving forward with the Car Wash and Drive-Through categories in relation to TIF's. Mr. Bouyounes advised that the plan is to bring them both back at the same time during a public hearing.

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ACA Tracy Straub, Administration, stated there is a supplemental report that has been provided by the consultants on the drive-through restaurants, noting administration needs to package it and bring it back before the Board. She clarified this report came in late yesterday.

General discussion ensued.

Mr. Bouyounes advised that the drive-through study is going to take some time.

Chairman Bryant stated she received correspondence from Representative Ryan Chamberlain's office to set up a meeting with him and all Marion County Constitutional Officers, noting they will follow up with each member of the Board following this meeting. Commissioner Zalak commented on the importance of trying to educate individuals on where funds end up and what they are used for, which can counter some negative perceptions that funds are being wasted in the County.

Commissioner Stone provided a brief overview of the budget process.

Commissioner Zalak opined that the State of Florida has one of the best structures in the Country in terms of levying taxes. The elected BCC assesses the tax roll; the separately elected Property Appraiser responsible for the appraisal; the elected Tax Collector; and the elected Clerk and Comptroller responsible for serving as the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the County. He stated it is this kind of process that has made Florida truly successful.

Chairman Bryant expressed concern over comments made by a State Senator in relation to local government operations and budget.

General discussion ensued relating to property taxes.

Chairman Bryant stated services in Marion County have to be paid for and are not free.

Commissioner Stone advised that every line item and check written is available online.

General discussion ensued.

Commissioner Stone advised that she had nothing further to add.

Chairman Bryant expressed gratitude for those who came to the Memorial Day Ceremony event, noting it was a success. She commented on the great work Clerk Harrell has done in relation to the budget.

13.2. Commission Calendar

13.2.1. Present Commission Calendar

14. NOTATION FOR RECORD:

14.1. County Administrator Informational Items:

14.1.1. Present Chamber and Economic Partnership April 2025 Activity

14.1.2. Present Solid Waste Monthly Operations Report for April 2025

14.2. Present Walk-On Items From Previous BCC Meeting: NONE

14.3. General Informational Items:

14.3.1. Marion County Health Department – For the Latest health news and information, Visit the Website at <http://marion.floridahealth.gov/>

14.4. Clerk of the Court:

14.4.1. Present Report No. 2025-01 Revenue Control Review of Parks Operations - Parks & Recreation Department

14.4.2. Present Administrative Budget Transfer Report for FY 2024-25

14.4.3. Present Memorandum from Gregory C. Harrell, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, Regarding the Filing of Ordinances 24-23 (Corrected), and 25-12 (Corrected) With the Secretary of State's Office

14.4.4. Present Constitutional Officers' and Commissioners' Bonds Pursuant to Chapter 137.05, Florida Statutes

14.4.5. Present Lands Available for Taxes Which the County May Purchase (Within 90 Days from August 12, 2025) for the Opening Bid Amounts, Pursuant to Chapter 197.542(1), Florida Statutes

14.4.6. Present Regular Report of Utilization for Reserve for Contingencies

14.4.7. Present Report No. PC2025-04 Belleview Heights Unit 8 (SE 44th Ave)

14.4.8. Present Report No. PC2025-05: Horse Park Lane Access Rd- SW 123rd Place Road Improvements Petition Count

14.5. Present for information and record, minutes and notices received from the following committees and agencies:

14.5.1. Code Enforcement Board - April 9, 2025

14.5.2. Districts 5 & 24 Medical Examiner Advisory Committee - February 12, 2025

14.5.3. Development Review Committee - May 5, and 12, 2025

14.5.4. Housing Finance Authority - March 19 and April 16, 2025

14.5.5. Land Development Regulation Committee - April 16, 2025

14.5.6. License Review Board - April 8, 2025

14.5.7. Tourist Development Council - April 24, 2025

14.5.8. Dog Classification Board - April 2, 2025

14.5.10. Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) - For Minutes and Agendas, Visit the Website at <http://www.WaterMatters.org>

14.5.11. St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) - For Minutes and Agendas, Visit the Website at <https://www.sjrwmd.com>

14.5.12. Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) - For Minutes and Agendas, Visit the Website at <https://ocalamariontpo.org>

14.5.13. Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) - For Minutes and Agendas, Visit the Website at <http://www.wrwsa.org>

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There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting thereupon adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Kathy Bryant, Chairman

Attest:

Gregory C. Harrell, Clerk

DRAFT