

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

August 5, 2025

CALL TO ORDER:

The Marion County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) met in regular session in Commission Chambers at 9:01 a.m. on Tuesday August 5, 2025 at the Marion County Governmental Complex located in Ocala, Florida.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The meeting opened with invocation by Commissioner Curry 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 Craig Curry, District 1; Commissioner Matthew McClain, District 3; and Commissioner Michelle Stone, District 5. 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, ACA Amanda Tart and Executive Director of Internal Services Mike McCain.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

UPDATE: Chairman Bryant requested this time to provide an update on Task Force 8. She expressed the Board's profound gratitude to the members of Task Force 8 Swift Water Rescue Team, which includes first responders from Ocala, Gainesville, and Marion County Fire Rescue (MCFR). Chairman Bryant advised that for 14 days, this highly trained team bravely deployed to Texas to assist with the devastating flood on the Guadalupe River. She stated the BCC is incredibly proud to share that 4 of the 6 members of this team were from MCFR and are relieved to report that all of its team members have returned home safely from this deployment. Chairman Bryant noted that although their mission is complete, the work for those affected communities is far from over. She stated Marion County's thoughts and prayers remain with the people of Texas as they begin the long process of recovery. Chairman Bryant advised that the BCC prays for their community's strength for the survivors and continued support for all of the first responders who are still on the ground assisting with the ongoing efforts. She noted the BCC is grateful for the selfless service of the first responders who represent the very best of Marion County.

Fire Chief James Banta expressed his appreciation to the Board for recognizing Task Force 8, noting it was a very difficult mission. He stated the team was prepared for this assignment thanks to the support of the BCC and its investment in their training and necessary equipment to accomplish their missions.

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1. PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Upon motion of Commissioner Stone, seconded by Commissioner McClain, the BCC approved and/or ratified the following:

1.1. PROCLAMATION - Purple Heart Day - Daisy Diaz, Veterans Services Director (Approval and Presentation)

The Board presented the Proclamation designating August 7, 2025 as "Purple Heart Day" in Marion County to Director Daisy Diaz, Veteran Services.

Veteran Services Director Daisy Diaz advised that the Purple Heart is one of the most respected military awards that a service member can earn. She commented on the importance of taking the time to recognize local Veterans that were awarded the Purple Heart. Ms. Diaz stated the Veterans Services Department identified 10 local Purple Heart recipients. She noted each of the Veterans will receive a special Marion County Challenge Coin that was minted to honor Purple Heart recipients and a copy of the Proclamation.

Veterans Services Supervisor Mauricio Paredes read the names, ranks and branches of each of the service members or their representative who are present today. He stated there are 2 new recipients who have not previously been recognized on this special day including Captain John Webb, United States (US) Army and Specialist Daniel J. Agami, US Army, who was killed in action on June 21, 2007 in Iraq. Ilan Agami accepted the Proclamation on his brother's behalf. The other Purple Heart recipients honored included Retired Captain Stephen Petty, US Army; Specialist 5 Joseph Marquis, US Army; Corporal Jerome Anderson, US Army; Specialist Vito Giammanco, US Army; Corporal Reginald Nealy, US Marine Core (USMC); Lance Corporal Henry Bolding, USMC; Sargeant F. L. Brown, US Army; and Seaman Odell Hamilton, US Navy.

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

1.2. PRESENTATION - PTSD Awareness Day Presentation of Checks to Benefiting Organizations - Roger Waddell, Public Relations Specialist (Presentation Only)

Public Relations (PR) Director Bobbi Perez presented the following recommendation:

Description/Background: The 2025 PTSD Walk/Run was a tremendous success, drawing record-breaking support. Proceeds from the event, including T-Shirt sales, directly benefited three incredible local organizations: Veterans Helping Veterans, Marion County Fire Rescue Peer Support, and H3 Adventures. The community came together and made a powerful impact for those in most need of support in our County.

Budget/Impact: None.

Recommended Action: Presentation only.

PR Specialist Roger Waddell advised that the 4th annual Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Awareness Walk/Run event was held on June 27, 2025, noting the community came together in support of veterans, first responders, and all those who are battling with the silent struggles of PTSD. He presented a brief video of the event as shown on the overhead screens. Mr. Waddell expressed his appreciation to all who sponsored the event, including Advent Hospital, HCA Ocala Hospital, Comcast, American Red Cross, Waste Pro of Ocala, The Refuge, Motorola, Santiam Towing, The Guest House, Hiers-Baxley Funeral Home, The Vines Hospital, Elks Lodge, Scorpio, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), PIP Printing, and Things to Do Ocala. He stated this event brought together so many local vendors who offered vital information, resources and support, which is a true testament to the strength and compassion of the community. Mr. Wadell advised that this year's event raised over \$31,000.00, which, after costs, allowed

each beneficiary to receive approximately \$7,100.00. He invited Executive Director Todd Belknap, Veterans Helping Veterans; Chief Alex Caban, MCFR Health and Safety Team; and Robert “BJ” Isom from H-3 Adventure Team, up to the dais to receive a check on behalf of their agencies.

1.3. PRESENTATION - City/County Bowling League Presentation to Animal Services - Jimmy Cowan, Property Appraiser (Presentation Only)

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

Description/Background: Last year the City/County Bowling league was restarted and has seen great support. After awarding the first-place team their prize, the league voted to donate the remaining prize funds. It was unanimously decided to make the donation to Marion County Animal Services.

Budget/Impact: None.

Recommended Action: Presentation only.

Property Appraiser Jimmy Cowan advised of the restart of the City/County Bowling league, noting the league first began approximately 35 years ago. He stated after paying associated fees and awarding the first-place team with their prize jackets a vote was taken and league members chose to donate the remaining prize fund to charity. Mr. Cowan and bowling league member Tom Keen (Seargent of Arms), along with several other league members presented a check in the amount of \$2,275.10 to Animal Services Director Kyra Lynch.

1.4. PRESENTATION - Mission: Bus Brigade, School Supply Drive – Amanda Tart, Assistant County Administrator (Presentation Only)

ACA Amanda Tart, Administration, presented the following recommendation:

Description/Background: The Marion County Board of County Commissioners continues its longstanding support of local education with this annual School Supply Drive. The County’s employees and the Constitutional Offices have shown their commitment to empowering students in our community for success by providing supplies to local children in need. The goal of this campaign is to make sure every student is prepared with the necessary resources to learn on the first day of school.

As in past years, all proceeds and donations received during this campaign will be given to the Marion County Public School’s (MCPS) Homeless and Needy Children’s Program for distribution to students through the various elementary, middle, and high schools.

As part of the County’s competition, the following awards will be presented to the winning departments:

- Design-A-Bus Contest:
 - Most Unique Bus
 - Most Realistic Bus
 - Funniest Bus
- School Supply Drive Contest
 - 2025 Golden Ruler Award, presented to the department with the most points
 - 2025 Division Champion Trophy, presented to the division with the most points

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Additionally, Dr. Danielle Brewer, Interim Superintendent, MCPS, will be present to address the Board and receive donations on behalf of the School Board. MCPS has arranged for a school bus to be parked outside and Commissioners will have the opportunity to place some of the donated supplies inside the bus.

Budget/Impact: None.

Recommended Action: Presentation only.

ACA Amanda Tart advised that this morning the County is wrapping up its annual Mission: Bus Brigade, School Supply Drive for 2025 and will be presenting Department awards first. She stated the conference rooms are packed with school supplies collected at various County locations, noting this was made possible by the generosity and dedication of Marion County employees, Constitutional Officers and other community partners. Ms. Tart advised that this year 23,000 items were collected for students in need. There were additional monetary donations in the amount of \$2,799.00 to add to the school supplies. Ms. Tart advised that 9 County Departments participated in the Design a Bus contest, with the Commissioners serving as judges determining the winners in 3 categories: 1) most unique bus; 2) most realistic bus; and 3) funniest bus. She announced the award for the most unique bus goes to the Building and Safety Department for the bus themed "Glass Bottom Boat". Building Safety Director Michael Savage accepted the award on behalf of the Department.

Ms. Tart stated the award for the most realistic bus goes to the Facilities Department. Facilities Director Jared Goodspeed accepted the award on behalf of the Department.

Ms. Tart announced the award for the funniest bus goes to the Administration Department. County Administrator Mounir Bouyounes, Executive Assistants Jennifer Medina and Jennifer Clark, and Executive Coordinators Stephanie Gouin and Coral Gowen accepted the award on behalf of the Department.

Ms. Tart stated the second contest was for the school supply drive, noting this year points were assigned to items and the Departments were scored accordingly. Ms. Tart advised of the coveted "Golden Ruler Award", which is presented to the Department that brings in items worth the most points. This year's award goes to the Municipal Services (MS) Department. MS Director Chad Wicker accepted the award on behalf of the Department. Ms. Tart stated the final award this morning is the "Division Champion Award" presented to the Division with the most total points. The 3 ACAs and Fire Chief James Banta, MCFR, rally their troops and compete against each other to see which Departments can bring in the most school supplies. This year the Division Champion is Team Tracy, led by ACA Tracy Straub, which collected 14,026 items for a total of 25,472 points. ACA Tracy Straub, along with fellow members of her team, accepted the award.

Chairman Lori Conrad, Marion County School Board (MCSB), opined that it is great to live in Marion County. She expressed her appreciation to all who participated in the school supply drive event.

Interim Superintendent Dr. Danielle Brewer, MCPS, advised that because of this support, students will have the tools necessary to succeed from day-one, noting without this community, MCPS and its students could not thrive.

In response to Chairman Bryant, Dr. Brewer advised that per the new school Policy, cell phones are being banned in elementary and middle schools and are only allowed in classrooms (for school work), cafeterias and courtyards in high schools.

Chairman Bryant expressed her appreciation the Marion County team for their commitment to helping those in need.

There was a recess at 9:53 a.m.

The meeting resumed at 10:01 a.m. with all members present, except Commissioner Stone.

Chairman Bryant noted it is the ten o'clock hour. She advised that the Board would continue with the Agenda Items after the public hearing is concluded.

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

6.1. FINAL PUBLIC HEARING for the Community Services' 2025-2026 Annual Action Plan

Community Services Director Cheryl Butler presented the following recommendation:

Description/Background: Marion County annually receives federal grant funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which includes the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG).

Marion County leads a Consortium with the City of Ocala to secure HOME funds, while the City receives its own CDBG allocation as an Entitlement City.

Marion County anticipates receiving approximately \$2,173,037 for CDBG projects, \$891,550 for HOME initiatives, and \$190,774 for ESG programs. This Public Hearing is to gather feedback on the final draft of the Annual Action Plan for 2025-2026, detailing the annual funding amounts.

Budget/Impact: None.

Recommended Action: Receive public comments and advise staff to incorporate appropriate comments into the plans. Motion to approve the Marion County Community Services' 2025-2026 Annual Action Plan and authorize the Chairman to execute all necessary documents associated with the plan.

Deputy Clerk Windberg presented proof of publication of a display ad entitled, "Public Notice - Public Hearings Proposed 2026-2026 Annual Plan First Public Hearing Date: July 15, 2025 Final Public Hearing Date: August 5, 2025" published in the Star Banner newspaper on July 10, 2025. The Notice states the purpose of the final public hearing is to discuss the HOME Program and ESG Program through the Marion County and the City of Ocala HOME Consortium, as well as the housing, community, and economic development needs of Marion County using CDBG Program funds.

Commissioner Stone returned at 10:01 a.m.

Community Services Director Cheryl Butler advised that this is the second of 2 public hearings for the Community Services Department 2025-2026 Annual Action Plan. She stated Marion County anticipates receiving approximately \$2,173,037.00 for CDBG projects, \$891,550.00 for HOME initiatives, and \$190,774.00 for ESG programs. Ms. Butler advised that the public hearings are to receive public feedback on the proposed Action Plan, noting the public comment period ends on August 10, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

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 Curry, to approve the Marion County Community Services' 2025-2026 Annual Action Plan and authorize the Chairman to execute all necessary documents associated with the plan. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board (5-0).

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

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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.

Chairman Bryant opened the floor for public comment.

Charles Calhoun, SW 92nd Court, presented a 1 page handout entitled, "Marion County Memorial Honor Guard July 2025" and a 1 page letter to the BCC dated August 5, 2025 from Veterans Helping Veterans USA. He advised that the Marion County Memorial Honor Guard has attended 22 funerals and 4 public events in the past month, as well as supplemented an Active Duty Military Unit that was shorthanded. There are 38 Honor Guard members with 31 participating in at least 1 event. Mr. Calhoun stated the Veterans Resource Center is offering free Galleri multi-cancer screening and detection tests for Marion County Veterans. He advised that grants were provided by the BCC, Marion County Hospital District (MCHD), and Advent-Ocala Hospital, noting 109 veterans were tested in July, 2025. Mr. Calhoun stated Veterans Helping Veterans operates a large food pantry that distributes over 2,000 pounds of food monthly, serves weekly hot meals, offers showers to the homeless, and provides emergency funding for those in need. The organization also offers transportation, counseling, emotional support and career advice. He advised of a new Barracks of Hope program in coordination with the Bridge to Hope program, as well as the organization's participation in the Veterans Court program led by Reverend Bruce Gonseth, and the "Chuck's Piggy Bank" program.

Mr. Calhoun commented on the upcoming auction to benefit Chuck's Piggy Bank and Veterans Helping Veterans, to be held on Sunday, August 24, 2025 at the Arbor Conference Center, as well as the Army-Marines-Navy Joint 250 Year Celebration to take place on Saturday, September 15, 2025 from 4:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. at the Chandler Hills Lodge.

Mr. Calhoun referred to the 1 page letter from Veterans Helping Veterans USA, noting the organization respectfully requests the donation of a vehicle or vehicles to assist in their mission.

Joseph Walker, SE 54th Place, Ocklawaha, addressed the Board relating to Agenda Item 8.1. regarding the request to appoint a Commissioner or someone from County Administration to represent the BCC in a mediation proceeding. He questioned why the County is being sued.

Chairman Bryant clarified that the mediation relates to the BCC denying a rezoning application by Lake Louise, LLC on May 19, 2025.

Chairman Bryant requested staff provide Mr. Walker with a copy of the list of properties that have recently been cleaned up by the Code Enforcement Department.

Chairman Bryant advised that public comment is now closed.

3. ADOPT THE FOLLOWING MINUTES: (1 Set)

3.1. March 17, 2025

A motion was made by Commissioner Stone, seconded by Commissioner Curry, to adopt the meeting minutes of March 17, 2025. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board (5-0).

4. CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS AND GOVERNMENTAL OR OUTSIDE AGENCIES:

4.1. Request Approval of Traffic Enforcement Agreement Between William "Billy" Woods, Sheriff of Marion County, Marion County Board of County Commissioners, and Ocala Preserve Association, Inc.

The Board considered the following recommendation from General Counsel Marissa Duquette, Marion County Sheriff's Office (MCSO):

Description/Background: The Sheriff has agreed to provide traffic enforcement over private roads within the community of the Ocala Preserve Association, Inc. The attached agreement describes the service area, duties and responsibilities of the parties. The agreement will commence upon signature by all parties and shall be in effect for a term of one year. Thereafter, the agreement shall automatically renew for successive one (1) year terms, unless terminated by either party with 30 day written notice.

Budget/Impact: None.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve and authorize the Chair and Clerk to execute the Traffic Enforcement Agreement between William "Billy" Woods, Sheriff of Marion County, Marion County Board of County Commissioners, and Ocala Preserve Association, Inc.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stone, seconded by Commissioner Curry, to approve and authorize the Chair and Clerk to execute the Traffic Enforcement Agreement between William "Billy" Woods, Sheriff of Marion County, Marion County BCC, and Ocala Preserve Association, Inc. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board (5-0).

5. CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT:

5.1. Budget Amendment

Clerk Harrell advised that Agenda Item 5.1.1. relates to Agenda Items 7.4.2., 7.4.3. and 7.4.4.; Agenda Item 5.1.13. relates to Agenda Item 7.4.10.; Agenda Item 5.1.14. relates to Agenda Item 7.4.11.; and Agenda Item 5.1.22. relates to Agenda Items 7.2.1., 7.2.2., and 7.2.3.

Mr. Bouyounes advised that Agenda Item 5.1.12 relates to Agenda Item 7.5.4.

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 Consent Agenda Items: 7.4.2., 7.4.3., 7.4.4., 7.4.10., 7.4.11., 7.2.1., 7.2.2., 7.2.3., and 7.5.4.

5.1.1. 25-R-233 - American Rescue Plan Local Fiscal Recovery Fund - Utilities Line Extensions - \$475,765

5.1.2.a. 25-R-234 - Budget Transfer from Multiple Funds to Building Safety - \$13,655

5.1.2.b. 25-R-235 - Budget Transfer from Multiple Funds to Building Safety - \$13,380

5.1.2.c. 25-R-236 - Budget Transfer from Multiple Funds to Building Safety - \$39,140

5.1.2.d. 25-R-237 - Budget Transfer from Multiple Funds to Building Safety - \$12,105

5.1.3. 25-R-238 - County Transportation Maintenance Fund - Transportation - \$15,000

5.1.4. 25-R-239 - Fine and Forfeiture Fund - Sheriff Regular Transfer - \$44

5.1.5. 25-R-240 - Fine and Forfeiture Fund - Sheriff Regular Transfer - \$3,956

5.1.6. 25-R-241 - Fire, Rescue and EMS Fund - Fire Rescue Services - \$32,929

5.1.7. 25-R-242 - Fire, Rescue and EMS Fund - Fire Rescue Services - \$80,000

5.1.8. 25-R-243 - Fire, Rescue and EMS Fund - Fire Rescue Services - \$1,253,505

5.1.9. 25-R-244 - General Fund - Multiple Cost Centers - \$9,465

5.1.10. 25-R-245 - General Fund - Public Safety Radio - \$74,900

5.1.11. 25-R-246 - General Fund - Sheriff Jail Transfer - \$2,760

5.1.12. 25-R-247 - Impact Fee West District Fund - Impact Fees West District - \$450,000

5.1.13. 25-R-248 - Marion County Utility Fund - Utilities Management - \$100,000

5.1.14. 25-R-249 - Marion County Utility Fund - Utilities Wastewater System - \$18,000

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- 5.1.15. 25-R-250 - Marion Oaks MSTU - Marion Oaks Recreation - \$2,450
 - 5.1.16.a. 25-R-251 - Multiple Funds - Sheriff Operations - \$221,710
 - 5.1.16.b. 25-R-252 - Multiple Funds - Sheriff Operations - \$3,266
 - 5.1.16.c. 25-R-253 - Multiple Funds - Sheriff Operations - \$48,636
 - 5.1.16.d. 25-R-254 - Multiple Funds - Sheriff Operations - \$12,234
 - 5.1.16.e. 25-R-255 - Multiple Funds - Sheriff Operations - \$211,975
 - 5.1.17. 25-R-256 - MSTU for Law Enforcement - Sheriff Patrol CID Transfer - \$8,000
 - 5.1.18. 25-R-257 - MSTU for Law Enforcement - Sheriff Patrol CID Transfer - \$14,224
 - 5.1.19. 25-R-258 - MSTU for Law Enforcement - Sheriff Patrol CID Transfer - \$49,733
 - 5.1.20. 25-R-259 - MSTU for Law Enforcement - Sheriff Patrol CID Transfer - \$56,113
 - 5.1.21. 25-R-260 - Parks and Recreation Fees Fund - Parks and Recreation Fees - \$444,246
 - 5.1.22. 25-R-261 - Public Assistance ERA2 Fund - Other Human Services - \$700,000
 - 5.1.23.a. 25-R-262 - Transfer from County Transportation Maintenance Fund to the Rainbow Lakes Estates MSTU for Road Improvement Fund - \$25,000
 - 5.1.23.b. 25-R-263 - Transfer from County Transportation Maintenance Fund to the Rainbow Lakes Estates MSTU for Road Improvement Fund - \$25,000
- (Ed. Note: EMS is the acronym for Emergency Medical Services; MSTU is the acronym for Municipal Service Taxing Unit; and CID is the acronym for Criminal Investigation Division.)

5.2. Project Adjustment

5.2.1. Transfer Project Funds and Amend the Capital Improvement Program - Stormwater Program - \$405,631

Utilities Director Tony Cunningham presented the following recommendation:

Description/Background: SMC0001MA - Timucuan Rd Culvert Improvement requires an increase to facilitate construction of the project. Additional funding is needed to meet the bid price, as well as allowing for 10% contingency and construction engineering. The project budget will be increased by \$405,631, which will be transferred from Stormwater Projects Unassigned.

Budget/Impact: Neutral.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve the transfer of Project Funds and amend the Capital Improvement Program.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stone, seconded by Commissioner Curry, to approve the transfer of project funds and amend the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The motion was unanimously approved by the Board (5-0).

5.3. Clerk of the Court Items

5.3.1. Present the Acquisition or Disposition of Property Forms Authorizing Changes in Status, as Follows: 039431, 039484, and 039496

Clerk Harrell recognized the hard work from the Solid Waste and Fleet Departments, noting when an item/property hits its end-of-life cycle for a particular use, sometimes these Departments can and will repurpose those items.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stone, seconded by Commissioner Curry, to approve the Acquisition or Disposition of Property forms 039431, 039484 and 039496. The motion was unanimously approved (5-0).

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

7.1. Attorney:

7.1.1. Request Approval of Resolution Releasing Mineral Rights in Connection With the Sandy Clay, LLC Parcel (Budget Impact - None)

The Board accepted the following recommendation to adopt Resolution 25-R-264 as presented by County Attorney Mathew G. Minter, Legal:

Description/Background: Marion County (County) previously owned the real property (Property) described as recorded in OR Book 8298, page 28. The County conveyed the Property to Sandy Clay, LLC, a Florida limited liability company (Buyer) pursuant to a Deed recorded in OR Book 8592, page 1750. Pursuant to Section 270.11, Florida Statutes, County was deemed to have reserved certain interests in phosphate, minerals, metals, and petroleum (collectively, the Mineral Rights) in the Property upon the conveyance. Section 270.11(2)(b), Florida Statutes, authorizes a local government to release the Mineral Rights upon petition of the owner of the real property encumbered by such Mineral Rights with a statement of reasons justifying such release. Buyer has provided to County such a statement and the County finds good cause exists to justify the release of the Mineral Rights.

Budget/Impact: None.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve the Resolution Releasing Mineral Rights in connection with the Sandy Clay, LLC Parcel and authorize the Chairman and the Clerk of Court to execute same.

Resolution 25-R-264 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION OF MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA, RELEASING COUNTY'S RESERVED MINERAL RIGHTS IN CERTAIN PROPERTY PREVIOUSLY OWNED BY MARION COUNTY.

7.2. Community Services:

7.2.1. Request Approval of First Amendment Marion County Standard Professional Services Agreement Emergency Rental Assistance 2 Program Between Marion County and Catholic Charities of Central Florida, Inc. d/b/a Blessed Trinity Catholic Church Brother's Keeper (Budget Impact - Neutral; not to exceed \$250,000)

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

Description/Background: On March 11, 2021, the U.S. Department of the Treasury created the Emergency Rental Assistance 2 (ERA2) Grant Fund to support rental assistance and prevent homelessness.

On April 15, 2025, the Board of County Commissioners awarded \$350,000 in ERA2 funding to Brother's Keeper for the provision of emergency housing services. The agency is currently assisting approximately 26 families per month through rental assistance.

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Staff recommends approval of an amendment to increase Brother's Keeper's ERA2 allocation by \$250,000, bringing the total award to \$600,000. Based on the agency's performance and demonstrated need, the additional funding is projected to support a total of approximately 130 families or individuals.

The amendment also includes the following provisions:

- An upfront advancement of funds to support immediate service delivery.
- Authorization for the County Administrator to approve reallocation of ERA2 funds among subrecipient agencies, based on recommendations provided by the Community Services Director, to ensure full expenditure by the federal deadline of September 30, 2025.

Budget/Impact: Neutral, not to exceed \$250,000.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve and authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute all necessary documents associated with this First Amendment between Marion County and Brother's Keeper.

(Ed. Note: This Item was approved with Agenda Item 5.1.22.)

7.2.2. Request Approval of First Amendment Marion County Standard Professional Services Agreement Emergency Rental Assistance 2 Program Between Marion County and Neighborhood Housing & Development Corporation (Budget Impact - Neutral; not to exceed \$250,000)

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

Description/Background: On March 11, 2021, the U.S. Department of the Treasury created the Emergency Rental Assistance 2 (ERA2) Grant Fund to support rental assistance and prevent homelessness.

On April 15, 2025, the Board of County Commissioners awarded \$150,000 in ERA2 funding to Neighborhood Housing and Development Corporation (NHDC) for the provision of emergency housing services. The agency is currently assisting approximately 25 families per month through rental assistance.

Staff recommends approval of an amendment to increase NHDC's ERA2 allocation by \$250,000, bringing the total award to \$400,000. Based on the agency's performance and demonstrated need, the additional funding is projected to support a total of approximately 130 families or individuals.

The amendment also includes the following provisions:

- An upfront advancement of funds to support immediate service delivery.
- Authorization for the County Administrator to approve reallocation of ERA2 funds among subrecipient agencies, based on recommendations provided by the Community Services Director, to ensure full expenditure by the federal deadline of September 30, 2025.

Budget/Impact: Neutral, not to exceed \$250,000.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve and authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute all necessary documents associated with this First Amendment between Marion County and Neighborhood Housing & Development Corporation.

(Ed. Note: This Item was approved with Agenda Item 5.1.22.)

7.2.3. Request Approval of Marion County Standard Professional Services Agreement with the United States Department of the Treasury for Emergency Rental Assistance 2

Program Between Marion County and The Salvation Army (Budget Impact - Neutral; not to exceed \$200,000)

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

Description/Background: On March 11, 2021, the U.S. Department of the Treasury created the Emergency Rental Assistance 2 (ERA2) Grant Fund to support rental assistance and prevent homelessness.

Marion County Community Services accepted applications from local non-profits to assist Marion County in utilizing ERA2 funds. The Salvation Army submitted a request for \$200,000 to support rapid rehousing and homeless prevention programs aimed at stabilizing households at risk of homelessness.

After review of their application, staff recommends approval of this funding request based on the need to address housing instability in the community.

Budget/Impact: Neutral, not to exceed \$200,000.

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

(Ed. Note: This Item was approved with Agenda Item 5.1.22.)

7.3. Human Resources:

7.3.1. Request Approval of the Reclassification of One (1) Trial Court Staff Attorney Position, Pay Grade 112 Exempt, to One (1) Trial Court Staff Attorney Position, Pay Grade 114 Exempt, within the Budget of Court Innovations CE270606 (Budget Impact - Reoccurring Expenditure of \$10,083)

The Board accepted the following recommendation to adopt Resolution 25-R-265 as presented by Human Resources Director Sara Caron:

Description/Background: Staff Attorneys provide critical support to the judges. Currently, there's a notable discrepancy between the salaries of County funded and State funded Staff Attorney positions. This gap risks creating an unintended "second tier" among staff attorneys, which could undermine morale, recruitment and retention. Bringing County funded Staff Attorney salaries closer to the State funded level will help ensure equity, maintain the high caliber of support our judges rely on, and uphold the overall effectiveness of judicial operations. Funding for this adjustment will not come from general revenue, but rather from court fees collected pursuant to Florida Statute 939.185.

Budget/Impact: Expenditure of \$10,083.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve the reclassification of one (1) Trial Court Staff Attorney position, pay grade 112 exempt, to one (1) Trial Court Staff Attorney position, pay grade 114 exempt, within the budget of Court Innovations CE270606.

Resolution 25-R-265 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA, PROVIDING FOR THE RECLASSIFICATION OF ONE (1) TRIAL COURT STAFF ATTORNEY POSITION, PAY GRADE 112 EXEMPT, TO ONE (1) TRIAL COURT STAFF ATTORNEY POSITION, PAY GRADE 114 EXEMPT, WITHIN THE BUDGET OF COURT INNOVATIONS CE270606, ALONG WITH THE CORRESPONDING JOB DESCRIPTION AND PAY GRADE AND

INCORPORATING THE FOREGOING ACTIONS INTO THE MARION COUNTY CLASSIFICATION PLAN.

7.4. Procurement Services:

7.4.1. Request Approval of Bid Award: 25B-120 DRA 3794 Erosion Repair - Major Maintenance Project - Art Walker Construction, Inc., Ocala, FL (Budget Impact - Neutral; expenditure of \$654,937)

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

Description/Background: On behalf of the Office of the County Engineer, Procurement advertised a bid to hire a qualified contractor to repair a sinkhole at Drainage Retention Area (DRA) 3794 located southeast of the intersection of SW Highway 484 and SW 49th Court Rd. The work will include standard clearing and grubbing, placing and compacting fill in 12-inch lifts, and sodding disturbed areas. Four (4) submittals were received, and the tabulation is below:

Firm Name - <i>Location</i>	Bid Price
Art Walker Construction, Inc. – <i>Ocala, FL</i>	\$654,936.23
Ho-Man Contracting, LLC – <i>Anthony, FL</i>	\$997,706.21
Hartman Civil Construction Co. Inc. – <i>Ocala, FL</i>	\$1,155,612.00
GWP Construction, Inc. – <i>Ocala, FL</i>	\$1,518,795.70

Steven Cohoon, County Engineer, recommends that Art Walker Construction, Inc. receive the award as the lowest, most responsive, and most responsible bidder.

Attached for review is a draft of the contract. Upon approval at today's meeting, it will be sent to Art Walker Construction, Inc. for signature and upon return, it will be forwarded to Legal, the Clerk and Chairman for signatures.

Budget/Impact: Neutral; expenditure of \$654,936.23. Up to 10% contingency may be added to the purchase order in accordance with the Procurement Manual. Funding is from EK430538-534101 (Stormwater Program).

Recommended Action: Motion to approve the recommendation and allow staff to issue a contract and upon approval by Legal, authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute the contract under 25B-120.

7.4.2. Request Approval of Change Order 1 to Purchase Order 2401187: 21Q-227-TO-13 Phase 1 of Marion Oaks Water Main Extension Construction Phase Services - Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., Ocala, FL (Budget Impact - Neutral; additional expenditure of \$89,920)

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

Description/Background: On October 5, 2021, the Board approved a contract with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. (KHA), for program management services pertaining to the implementation of multiple utility projects through 2026 under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and grant funding under the program. Under this task order, KHA will provide the construction phase engineering services for Phase 1 of the Marion Oaks Water Main Extension, to include construction administration and inspection, as well as construction phase ARPA compliance and program management through the completion of this project.

Change Order 1 is being presented for approval in the amount of \$89,920 to account for revisions to the scope of services. These revisions reflect adjustments

in project responsibilities and inspection services to be performed by KHA through the duration of the project. With this change order, the total amount of the purchase order will increase to \$240,050.

A copy of KHA's updated proposal, detailing the revised scope of work, is attached for reference and will be included in the project file as supporting documentation for the purchase order.

Budget/Impact: Neutral; additional expenditure of \$89,920. Funding is from line FF449536-563102 (American Rescue Plan - SLFRF), Project Code UTCEXT002. Recommended Action: Motion to approve and authorize Chairman and Clerk to execute Change Order 1 and allow staff to issue to Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. under Task Order 21Q-227-TO-13.

(Ed. Note: This Item was approved with Agenda Item 5.1.1.)

7.4.3. Request Approval of Change Order 1 to Purchase Order 2401307: 21Q-227-TO-14 Phase 2 of Silver Springs Shores Septic to Sewer Construction Phase - Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., Ocala, FL (Budget Impact - Neutral; additional expenditure of \$182,145)

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

Description/Background: On October 5, 2021, the Board approved a contract with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. (KHA), for program management services pertaining to the implementation of multiple utility projects through 2026 under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and grant funding under the program. ARPA grant requires that specific payroll related data be submitted as well as the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) portion of the grants coming from Federal funds. Under this task order, KHA will provide ARPA compliance services required under the grant guidelines, that were not included in the original quotes. Change Order 1 is being presented for approval in the amount of \$182,145 to account for revisions to the scope of services. These revisions reflect adjustments in project responsibilities and inspection services to be performed by KHA through the duration of the project. The additional scope is necessary due to a shortage of staff in the Marion County Utilities Department, requiring KHA to provide extended support to ensure continued progress and compliance. With this change order, the total amount of the purchase order will increase to \$451,200.

A copy of KHA's updated proposal, detailing the revised scope of work, is attached for reference and will be included in the project file as supporting documentation for the purchase order.

Budget/Impact: Neutral; additional expenditure of \$182,145. Funding is from line FF449536-563102 (American Rescue Plan - SLFRF), Project Code UTCEXT004B.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve and authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute Change Order 1 and allow staff to issue to Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. under Task Order 21Q-227-TO-14.

(Ed. Note: This Item was approved with Agenda Item 5.1.1.)

7.4.4. Request Approval of Change Order 1 to Purchase Order 2500129: 21Q-227-TO-15 Phase 1 of the Silver Springs Shores Septic to Sewer Construction Phase Services -

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Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., Ocala, FL (Budget Impact - Neutral; additional expenditure of \$203,700)

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

Description/Background: On October 5, 2021, the Board approved a contract with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. (KHA), for program management services pertaining to the implementation of multiple utility projects through 2026 under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The ARPA grant requires that specific data related to payroll be submitted as well as the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) portion of the grants coming from Federal funds. Under this task order, KHA will provide a continuation of program management during construction to include construction administration, inspection, and ARPA compliance review and coordination for Phase I of the Silver Springs Shores Septic to Sewer Construction project.

Change Order 1 is being presented for approval in the amount of \$203,700 to account for revisions to the scope of services. These revisions reflect adjustments in project responsibilities and inspection services to be performed by KHA through the duration of the project. With this change order, the total amount of the purchase order will increase to \$424,855.

A copy of KHA's updated proposal, detailing the revised scope of work, is attached for reference and will be included in the project file as supporting documentation for the purchase order.

Budget/Impact: Neutral; additional expenditure of \$203,700. Funding is from line FF449536-563102 (American Rescue Plan - SLFRF), Project Code UTCEXT004A.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve and authorize Chairman and Clerk to execute Change Order 1 and allow staff to issue to Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. under Task Order 21Q-227-TO-15.

(Ed. Note: This Item was approved with Agenda Item 5.1.1.)

7.4.5. Request Approval of Selection Committee Recommendation: 25Q-085 Bridge Repairs - North Florida Professional Services, Inc., Lake City, FL (Budget Impact - Neutral; expenditure of \$233,910)

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

Description/Background: On behalf of the Office of the County Engineer, Procurement advertised a Request for Qualifications for professional engineering and consulting services for improvements to bridges #364102 (CR-315) and #364150 (NE 145th Ave. Rd), both located in northeast Marion County. Services provided shall include, but not be limited to, design services, geotechnical services, survey, engineering plans, specifications, estimates, bid and permit documents, and post-design engineering services for both bridges. A cost-benefit analysis will also be done for bridge #364150 that compares the cost of replacing the bridge completely with the cost of repairing the existing structure. One (1) firm responded, the Selection Committee evaluated the proposal, ranking them per the tabulation below:

Firm - City	Score (Rank)
North Florida Professional Services, Inc. – Lake City, FL	227 (1)

Steven Cohoon, County Engineer, has reviewed and is in support of the Selection Committee's recommendation to award to North Florida Professional Services, Inc.

Attached for review is a draft contract; pending approval at today's meeting, it will be sent to North Florida Professional Services, Inc. for signatures. Upon return, it will be forwarded to the County Attorney, Clerk, and Chairman for signatures.

Budget/Impact: Neutral; expenditure of \$233,910. Funding is from VJ738541-563220 STC073834-CIPTRANSP-REHABCNS-738 (Infrast Surtax Cap Proj Fund).

Recommended Action: Motion to approve recommendation and allow staff to issue contract, and upon approval by Legal, authorize the Chairman to execute contract with North Florida Professional Services, Inc. under 25Q-085.

7.4.6. Request Approval of Sole Source Declaration: 25SS-149 Traffic Signal Video Detection Equipment - Iteris, Inc., Santa Ana, CA (Budget Impact - Neutral; estimated annual expenditure of \$150,000)

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

Description/Background: On behalf of the Office of the County Engineer, Procurement requests a waiver of the formal bid process to declare Iteris, Inc., a sole source provider, and to purchase their traffic signal detection equipment. Marion County maintains 140 signalized intersections, the majority of which utilize video detection for stopbar presence. Iteris is the only video detection system used in the county for that purpose, and standardization of Iteris equipment ensures compatibility, efficient maintenance, and uninterrupted operation. Additionally, warranty and support are only available when equipment is purchased directly from Iteris, making them the only viable source for these products. Previous Iteris equipment was purchased through an FDOT contract which Iteris is no longer a part of.

Attached for review is a draft Solicitation Waiver. Upon approval at today's meeting, it will be sent to the Chairman for signature.

Budget/Impact: Neutral; estimated annual expenditure of \$150,000. Funding is from BN403541-553101 (20% Gas Tax Const Fund).

Recommended Action: Motion to approve the request and declare Iteris, Inc. the sole source provider for Marion County's Traffic Signal Video Detection Equipment under 25SS-149.

7.4.7. Request Approval of Task Order: 23Q-087-TO-42 County Wide Sidewalk Improvements - Halff Associates, Inc., Tavares, FL (Budget Impact - Neutral; expenditure of \$394,510)

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

Description/Background: On June 6, 2023, the Board approved contracts with multiple firms to provide various civil site-related engineering services for the County. Firms were selected based on the area of specialty and equitable distribution of work among all firms in accordance with §287.055 Consultant's Competitive Negotiation Act (CCNA).

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Halff Associates, Inc. (Halff) has been chosen to perform engineering design services aimed at enhancing pedestrian infrastructure. The project includes design of improvements to existing sidewalks and the design of new sidewalk segments to close gaps in the current network, totaling approximately 5.14 miles. The primary goals are to ensure compliance with current ADA standards and to improve safe pedestrian access to schools and other key community destinations.

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

Budget/Impact: Neutral; project shall not exceed \$394,510. Funding is from BP763541-563101 (Sidewalk Construction Fund).

Recommended Action: Motion to approve the recommendation and allow staff to issue contract, and upon approval by Legal, authorize the Chairman to execute contract with Halff Associates, Inc.

7.4.8. Request Approval of Task Order: 23Q-087-TO-43 Malauka Connector (PER Services) - Guerra Development Corp., Ocala, FL (Budget Impact - Neutral; expenditure of \$138,920)

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

Description/Background: On June 6, 2023, the Board approved contracts with multiple firms to provide various civil site-related engineering services for the County. Firms were selected based on the area of specialty and equitable distribution of work among all firms in accordance with §287.055 Consultant's Competitive Negotiation Act (CCNA).

Guerra Development Corp (Guerra) has been chosen to provide Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) services for the Malauka Connector, which will provide better access for the public as well as emergency vehicles. The work shall include project administration, engineering analysis & reporting, geo-technical evaluation, concept plans, designs, and public involvement services, environmental & cultural analysis and reporting, technical reviews, PER report, progress reporting, quality control, and submittals.

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

Budget/Impact: Neutral; project shall not exceed \$138,920. Funding is from GA771541-563511 (Impact Fee-East District).

Recommended Action: Motion to approve the recommendation and allow staff to issue contract, and upon approval by Legal, authorize the Chairman to execute contract with Guerra Development Corp.

7.4.9. Request Approval of Task Order: 23Q-173-CA-04 Pre-Qualified AXIS Security Video Surveillance Systems, Solid Waste Security Video Surveillance System Replacement - DAB Consulting, Inc., Gainesville, FL (Budget Impact - Neutral; expenditure of \$57,052)

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

Description/Background: At the October 3, 2023, meeting, the Board approved contracts with seven (7) qualified contractors to install and maintain the AXIS brand security video surveillance systems. The services under the contract will provide installation, maintenance, and/or repairs for security surveillance system network cameras and video recorders.

The proposed task order is to provide and install a turnkey solution to replace and upgrade the existing security surveillance system at the Solid Waste Management Baseline Landfill. The project includes installing approximately nineteen new Power-over-Ethernet (PoE) IP cameras - 18 outdoor-rated and one (1) indoor-rated - across three (3) locations. All new outdoor-rated CAT6A F/UTP Ethernet cabling will be installed, along with the necessary hardware and equipment. Exterior-facing cabling will be enclosed in solid or flex conduit with service loops to support future maintenance. Existing camera locations designated for reuse will require certification of current cabling; any damaged or non-compliant cabling will be replaced. If rack space at the scale house is insufficient, the contractor will provide a secure wall-mounted enclosure. The scope also includes removal of any abandoned Ethernet or power cabling, fuses, and cameras after the new system is verified operational and video retention is confirmed.

In addition, a live stream camera will be installed to provide real-time visibility of landfill entrance traffic. This publicly accessible camera feed will be integrated into the County's website or Solid Waste Division webpage, allowing residents and commercial haulers to monitor landfill line conditions online before arriving. This feature is intended to improve customer convenience, reduce congestion, and enhance operational transparency.

Procurement solicited bids from all seven (7) qualified contractors, receiving one (1) response. Marion County Information Technology Director, Tom Northey, recommends awarding the project to DAB Consulting, Inc (DAB).

Attached are copies of DAB's proposals - one for the base turnkey solution and one for the live stream camera. These are provided for review and will be included in the project file as backup documentation for the purchase order.

Budget/Impact: Neutral; project cost is \$57,052. Funding is from lines:

ZA423534-552108 - \$16,982 (Solid Waste Disposal Fund)

ZA425534-552108 - \$16,983 (Solid Waste Disposal Fund)

ZA427534-552108 - \$16,983 (Solid Waste Disposal Fund)

ZA423534-564101 - \$6,104 (Solid Waste Disposal Fund).

Recommended Action: Motion to approve recommendation and authorize staff to release the purchase order to DAB Consulting, Inc. under 23Q-173.

7.4.10. Request Approval of Task Order for Engineering Design Support Services: 20Q-074-TO-41 SW 49th North Phase - Water Main Extension - Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., Ocala, FL (Budget Impact - Neutral; expenditure of \$94,420)

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

Description/Background: On July 21, 2020, the Board approved contracts with five firms to provide Utilities Engineering Design Support Services for Marion County. Under this agreement, Marion County Utilities (MCU) has assigned Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. (KHA) to provide engineering consulting services for the SW 49th Avenue North - 2-lane divided road project. This project involves widening SW

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49th Avenue from two lanes to four lanes between Marion Oaks Trail and SW 95th Street, including utility-related improvements.

As part of the project, KHA will prepare typical section layouts at the 30% roadway design stage, draft the utility plans, prepare the final utility plans, secure permits from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and assist with the bidding process of the Marion Oaks Manor project North on SW 49th to CR 42.

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 \$94,420. Funding for this project is from ZF448536-563102 (Marion County Utility Fund), Project UTC000214.

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

(Ed. Note: This Item was approved with Agenda Item 5.1.13.)

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

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

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

1. Pending Requisition/Mid Florida Diesel, Inc. - Marion County Utilities Department requests approval to purchase one (1) Blue Star 80KW Mounted Generator, fully compliant with the specifications outlined in the attached quote. This purchase meets the Fleet Department's replacement criteria. Total expenditure of \$97,465.00. Funds are available in line ZF442533-564101 (Marion County Utility Fund). This purchase meets the competitive bidding requirements under Sheriff's Contract #FSA 23-EQU21.0 .

Recommended Action: Motion to approve purchases.

(Ed. Note: This Item was approved with Agenda Item 5.1.14.)

7.5. Transportation - County Engineer:

7.5.1. Request Approval of a State of Florida Department of Transportation State-Funded Grant Agreement and Supporting Resolution for the NW 49th Street Project from NW 70th Avenue (CR 225A) to NW 44th Avenue, FPN: 2453201-1-54-01 (Budget Impact - Revenue; grant of up to \$1,500,000)

The Board accepted the following recommendation to adopt Resolution 25-R-266 as presented by County Engineer Steven Cohoon, Office of the County Engineer (OCE):

Description/Background: Marion County received a 2024 legislative appropriation for the NW 49th Street project from NW 70th Avenue (CR 225A) to NW 44th Avenue. This State-Funded Agreement and supporting resolution authorizes reimbursement of up to \$1,500,000 for construction costs associated with this project. The project involves constructing a new 4-lane road from NW 70th Avenue (CR 225A) east to where it meets the existing NW 49th Street; the existing section of NW 49th Street (approximately 0.5 miles) is to be widened from 2-lanes to 4-lanes for the remainder of the project to NW 44th Avenue.

Budget/Impact: Revenue. This project is programmed in the current County Transportation Improvement Plan and is identified in the adopted FY 2025 Line

Item Budget. TIP60800F and STC073811 - Funds 1292 and 3031 - Cost Centers 772 and 738.

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

Resolution 25-R-266 is entitled:

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

7.5.2. Request Approval of Standard Form 424D - Statement of Assurances for Construction Programs for Subgrant Agreement Between the Division of Emergency Management and Marion County for the SW 52nd Street Flood Mitigation Project (Agreement Number H0445) (Budget Impact - None)

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

Description/Background: Following Hurricane Irma, the County was partially approved for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding for flood mitigation relief for SW 52nd Street and surrounding subdivisions (HMGP project number 4337-358-R). The agreement for the project was approved by the Board on March 24, 2020 (Agenda Item 7H25). The grant agreement was executed by the State on June 22, 2020. The Board awarded the design of the project to Kimley-Horn on March 16, 2021, following selection by the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) Selection Committee.

During a programmatic review of the project's files by the Florida Division of Emergency Management, it was identified that Standard Form 424D had not been signed. As the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners previously was listed as the authorized agent on the grant agreement, the Chairman's signature is required for this form.

Budget/Impact: None.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve and authorize the Chairman to execute Standard Form 424D - Statement of Assurances for Construction Programs for Subgrant Agreement Number H0445 for the SW 52nd Street Flood Mitigation Project.

7.5.3. Request Approval of a State of Florida Department of Transportation Locally Funded Agreement Supplemental Amendment Number 1 and Supporting Resolution Concerning County Road 484 (at the intersection of Marion Oaks Boulevard) Project (Budget Impact - Neutral)

The Board accepted the following recommendation to adopt Resolution 25-R-267 as presented by County Engineer Cohoon, OCE:

Description/Background: The County previously entered into a Locally Funded Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for intersection improvements at County Road 484 and Marion Oaks Boulevard (G3485, FPN 449277-2-62-01), which included a payment of \$13,462.00.

Upon FDOT's review of the Locally Funded Agreement and its agreement with DRMP, Inc. for Construction Engineering Inspection (CEI) services, it was

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determined that the \$13,462.00 payment would be applied directly to CEI project costs, rather than placed into an escrow account. As a result, FDOT has requested the County process Supplemental Amendment Number 1 to remove the escrow language in Section 4(K).

Budget/Impact: Neutral.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve the attached Supplemental Amendment Number 1 Agreement and supporting Resolution and authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute the same.

Resolution 25-R-267 is entitled:

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA, APPROVING A SUPPLEMENTAL AMENDMENT NUMBER 1 TO THE APPROVED STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION LOCALLY FUNDED AGREEMENT PER RESOLUTION NO. 25-R-83, AND AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR AND CLERK TO EXECUTE SAME; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

7.5.4. Request Approval of a Purchase Agreement Associated with the SW 80th Street Road Improvement Project for Parcel 3545-001-001 (Budget Impact - Neutral; expenditure of \$230,000)

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

Description/Background: This is a request to approve a Purchase Agreement in the amount of \$230,000 plus closing costs for parcel 3545-001-001 associated with the SW 80th Street (SW 80th Avenue to SW Hwy 200) Road Improvement Project. This is an improved lot consisting of .23 acres. The 936 square foot single family residence, constructed in 1972, consists of two (2) bedrooms, two (2) bathrooms and a 312 square foot garage.

The negotiated agreement is inclusive of any and all cost associated with this transaction. There are cost savings recognized in this negotiation by avoiding additional costs that occur during condemnation proceedings.

Budget/Impact: Neutral; expenditure of \$230,000 plus closing cost (TIP077586 - TIP ROADS - EXPANS ROW - 762T - BO762541 - 561301).

Recommended Action: Motion to approve the Purchase Agreement and Addendum and authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute the same.

Ed. Note: This Item was approved with Agenda Item 5.1.12.)

7.5.5. Request Approval of the Release of a Subdivision Improvement Agreement with Bond Associated with Spires 27 Apartments (Budget Impact - None)

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

Description/Background: This is a request to approve the Release of a Subdivision Improvement Agreement with Bond associated with Spires 27 Apartments. The improvements were approved on June 13, 2025. The release will be recorded in the Public Record for proper satisfaction of the surety bond.

Budget/Impact: None.

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

7.6. Utilities:

7.6.1. Request Approval to Repeal Initial Resolution 24-R-261 and Approve the Replacement Resolution for Project MCIH-MO9-01: In-House Water Line Extension Program within Marion Oaks Unit 9 (Budget Impact - None)

The Board accepted the following recommendation to adopt Resolution 25-R-268 as presented by Utilities Director Tony Cunningham:

Description/Background: On May 21, 2024, the Board approved Ordinance 2024-13. This ordinance updated the Short Water Line Extension Program, allowing Marion County Utilities (MCU) to include water main extension projects completed by their in-house crew. MCU now has the authority to assign the actual proportional cost, or "Share," to all improved properties, referred to as "Benefitting Lots," as a capital connection fee.

During a later public comment session at the same meeting, the Board also approved MCU's first crew-installed water main extension, Project MCIH-MO9-01. This project, initially presented by MCU on July 16, 2024, required the installation of 341 feet of 6-inch water main to service eight (8) total parcels.

The work is now complete, and the water main is cleared for connection to MCU's system. All costs and Benefitting Lots have been certified with a final total project cost, which is a decrease from the estimated costs. This final Resolution verifies the project area (Exhibit A), corrects the total project cost (Exhibit B), and updates the Benefitting Lot Share for recording with Official Records and in MCU's database, enabling collection from future Benefitting Lots upon connection to the system.

MCIH-MO9-01	Estimated Cost	Actual Cost	Difference
Materials	\$ 7,345.46	\$ 9,011.05	\$1,665.59
Contract Services	\$ 8,810.90	\$ 8,931.25	\$ 120.35
MCU Construction	\$ 7,770.24	\$ 4,052.43	(\$ 3,717.81)
Contingency	\$ 2,392.66	\$ 0.00	(\$ 2,392.66)
Total Project Cost	\$ 26,319.26	\$ 21,994.73	(\$ 4,324.53)
Per Parcel Cost - eight (8) parcels	\$ 3,289.91	\$ 2,749.34	(\$ 540.57)

Budget/Impact: None; actual project cost less than estimated construction cost.

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

Resolution 25-R-268 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO SUPPORT THE WATER LINE EXTENSION PROGRAM/IN-HOUSE WATER LINE EXTENSION PROGRAM; PROVIDING CERTAIN FINDINGS AND AUTHORITY; ESTABLISHING THE PROGRAM SERVICE AREA; ESTABLISHING ONE-TIME CAPITAL CONNECTION FEE FOR THE SERVICE AREA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

7.6.2. Request Approval of Resolution for Project MCIH-KC22-01: In-House Water Line Extension Program within Kingsland Country Estates (Budget Impact - Neutral; expenditure of \$21,177)

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The Board accepted the following recommendation to adopt Resolution 25-R-269 as presented by Utilities Director Cunningham:

Description/Background: On May 21, 2024, the Board approved Ordinance 2024-13. This ordinance updated the Short Water Line Extension Program, allowing Marion County Utilities (MCU) to include water main extension projects completed by their in-house crew. MCU has the authority to assign the actual proportional cost, or "Share," to all improved properties, referred to as "Benefitting Lots," as a capital connection fee.

On June 20, 2025, MCU initiated its second crew-installed water main extension, Project MCIH-KC22-01. This project involved installing 342 feet of 6-inch water main to address specific circumstances and improve five (5) Benefitting Lots.

The work is complete, the water main is now ready for connection to MCU's system, and all costs and Benefitting Lots have been certified. This Resolution verifies the project area (Exhibit A), certifies the total project cost (Exhibit B), and establishes the resulting Benefitting Lot Share for recording with Official Records.

MCIH-KC22-01	Actual Cost
Materials	\$ 6,376.41
Contract Services	\$ 9,514.95
MCU Construction	\$ 5,285.56
Total Project Cost	\$ 21,176.92
Parcels Improved	Five (5) parcels
Per Parcel Cost	\$ 4,235.38

Budget/Impact: Neutral; project cost is \$21,176.92, which includes \$700 design fee. Funding is from line ZF448536-563102 with Project Code UTC000099.

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

Resolution 25-R-269 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO SUPPORT THE WATER LINE EXTENSION PROGRAM/IN-HOUSE WATER LINE EXTENSION PROGRAM; PROVIDING CERTAIN FINDINGS AND AUTHORITY; ESTABLISHING THE PROGRAM SERVICE AREA; ESTABLISHING ONE-TIME CAPITAL CONNECTION FEE FOR THE SERVICE AREA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

7.6.3. Request Approval of Resolution for Project MCIH-MO12-01: In-House Water Line Extension Program within Marion Oaks Unit 12 (Budget Impact - Neutral; expenditure of \$34,738)

The Board accepted the following recommendation to adopt Resolution 25-R-270 as presented by Utilities Director Cunningham:

Description/Background: On May 21, 2024, the Board approved Ordinance 2024-13. This ordinance updated the Short Water Line Extension Program, allowing Marion County Utilities (MCU) to include water main extension projects completed by their In-House Crew. MCU has the authority to assign the actual proportional cost, or "Share," to all improved properties, referred to as "Benefitting Lots," as a capital connection fee.

MCU designated their third Crew-installed water main extension, Project MCIH-MO12-01, to address a specific need for installing 668 feet of 6-inch water main. This improvement directly benefits five (5) Benefitting Lots.

The work for Project MCIH-MO12-01 is complete and the water main is ready for connection to MCU's system. All costs and Benefitting Lots have been certified. This resolution confirms the project area (Exhibit A), certifies the total project cost (Exhibit B), and sets the resulting Benefitting Lot Share. This information will be recorded in Official Records and MCU's database for collection from future Benefitting Lots when they connect to the system.

MCIH-KC22-01	Actual Cost
Materials	\$ 16,137.14
Contract Services	\$ 11,319.30
MCU Construction	\$ 7,281.42
Total Project Cost	\$ 34,737.86
Parcels Improved	Five (5) parcels
Per Parcel Cost	\$ 6,947.57

Budget/Impact: Neutral; project cost is \$34,737.86, which includes \$700 design fee. Funding is from line ZF448536-563102 with Project Code UTC000099.

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

Resolution 25-R-270 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO SUPPORT THE WATER LINE EXTENSION PROGRAM/IN-HOUSE WATER LINE EXTENSION PROGRAM; PROVIDING CERTAIN FINDINGS AND AUTHORITY; ESTABLISHING THE PROGRAM SERVICE AREA; ESTABLISHING ONE-TIME CAPITAL CONNECTION FEE FOR THE SERVICE AREA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

7.6.4. Request Approval of Water Main Extension Connection Agreement WME-100-S Between JNY Alpha, LLC and Marion County Utilities (Budget Impact - Neutral; expenditure of \$44,967)

The Board accepted the following recommendation as presented by Utilities Director Cunningham:

Description/Background: In accordance with Land Development Code section 6.14.2, developers (property owners) are required to connect to public utilities if the property being developed is within connection distance. For a single-family residence, the connection distance is 400 feet from the parcel's closest corner to the public water main. In this case, the property owner has applied for a building permit for a parcel within the 400' connection distance of the public water main provided by Marion County Utilities (MCU). The owner is required to install the water main across the entire frontage of the parcel, ending at the farthest corner. Resolution No. 21-R-381 approved by the Board on August 17, 2021, authorizes in certain circumstances to permit MCU to enter into a Share Agreement whereby each parcel connecting to the MCU system is charged for only their share of the total project based upon MCU's low bid for the work. The County has funding in

place to use the share methodology to interconnect the mains and “close a loop,” which improves the system hydraulics within the neighborhood.

Total Project Cost	\$44,967.00	\$ 44,267 construction + \$700 design
Per Parcel Cost	\$ 6,423.86	Seven (7) total parcels

Budget/Impact: Neutral; project cost is \$44,967 and construction purchase order includes 10% contingency in accordance with the Procurement Manual. Funding is from ZF448536-563102 with project code UTC000094.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve and authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute the Water Main Extension Connection Agreement and authorize staff to issue the construction purchase order to T&C Underground under 22P-146.

7.6.5. Request Approval of Water Main Extension Connection Agreement WME-107-S Between Booming Homes, LLC and Marion County Utilities (Budget Impact - Neutral; expenditure of \$41,310)

The Board accepted the following recommendation as presented by Utilities Director Cunningham:

Description/ Background: In accordance with Land Development Code section 6.14.2, developers (property owners) are required to connect to public utilities if the property being developed is within connection distance. For a single-family residence, the connection distance is 400 feet from the parcel’s closest corner to the public water main. In this case, the property owner has applied for a building permit for a parcel within the 400’ connection distance of the public water main provided by Marion County Utilities (MCU). The owner is required to install the water main across the entire frontage of the parcel, ending at the farthest corner. Resolution No. 21-R-381 approved by the Board on August 17, 2021, authorizes in certain circumstances to permit MCU to enter into a Share Agreement whereby each parcel connecting to the MCU system is charged for only their share of the total project based upon MCU’s low bid for the work. The County has funding in place to use the share methodology to interconnect the mains and “close a loop,” which improves the system hydraulics within the neighborhood.

Total Project Cost	\$ 41,310	\$ 40,610 construction + \$700 design
Per Parcel Cost	\$ 6,885	Six (6) total parcels

Budget/Impact: Neutral; project cost is \$41,310 and construction purchase order includes 10% contingency in accordance with the Procurement Manual. Funding is from ZF448536-563102 with project code UTC000094.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve and authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute the Water Main Extension Connection Agreement and authorize staff to issue a construction purchase order to T&C Underground under 22P-146.

7.6.6. Request Approval of Water Main Extension Connection Agreement WME-117-S Between Larson Brothers Holdings, LLC and Marion County Utilities (Budget Impact - Neutral; expenditure of \$142,953)

The Board accepted the following recommendation as presented by Utilities Director Cunningham:

Description/Background: In accordance with Land Development Code section 6.14.2, developers (property owners) are required to connect to public utilities if the property being developed is within connection distance. For a single-family

residence, the connection distance is 400 feet from the parcel’s closest corner to the public water main. In this case, the property owner has applied for a building permit for a parcel within the 400’ connection distance of the public water main provided by Marion County Utilities (MCU). The owner is required to install the water main across the entire frontage of the parcel, ending at the farthest corner. Resolution No. 21-R-381 approved by the Board on August 17, 2021, authorizes in certain circumstances to permit MCU to enter into a Share Agreement whereby each parcel connecting to the MCU system is charged for only their share of the total project based upon MCU’s low bid for the work. The County has funding in place to use the share methodology to interconnect the mains and “close a loop,” which improves the system hydraulics within the neighborhood.

Total Project Cost	\$142,953.00	\$141,553 construction + \$1,400 design
Per Parcel Cost	\$ 7,523.84	19 total parcels

Budget/Impact: Neutral; project cost is \$142,953 and construction purchase order includes 10% contingency in accordance with the Procurement Manual. Funding is from ZF448536-563102 with project code UTC000094.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve and authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute the Water Main Extension Connection Agreement and authorize staff to issue the construction purchase order to T&C Underground under 22P-146.

7.6.7. Request Approval of Water Main Extension Connection Agreement WME-120-O Between VSJ Enterprise, LLC and Marion County Utilities (Budget Impact - Neutral; expenditure of \$15,223)

The Board accepted the following recommendation as presented by Utilities Director Cunningham:

Description/Background: In accordance with Land Development Code section 6.14.2, developers (property owners) are required to connect to public utilities if the property is within connection distance. For a single-family residence, the connection distance is 400 feet from the parcel’s closest corner to the public water main. In this case, the property owner is required to connect to the public water main provided by Marion County Utilities (MCU) and install 86 feet of water main across the parcel’s frontage to the farthest end of the property. The water main extension will serve the property owner’s parcel and create a benefit for one (1) additional parcel along the route. The total project cost is \$15,223; the benefitting lot share cost will be collected by MCU only if it is developed before the sunset period of the Agreement.

Total Project Cost	\$ 15,223.00	\$14,523 construction + \$700 design
Per Parcel Cost	\$ 7,611.50	Two (2) total parcels served

Budget/Impact: Neutral; project cost is \$15,223 and construction purchase order includes 10% contingency in accordance with the Procurement Manual. Funding is from ZF448536-563102 with project code UTC000094.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve and authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute the Water Main Extension Connection Agreement and authorize staff to issue the purchase order for T&C Underground under 22P-0146.

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8. COUNTY ATTORNEY:

8.1. Request for Designation of a County Representative for Dispute Resolution Mediation and Proceedings under Section 70.51, Florida Statutes (Florida Land Use and Environmental Dispute Resolution Act) Initiated by Lake Louise, LLC (Budget Impact - None)

County Attorney Minter, Legal, presented the following recommendation:

Description/Background: On May 19, 2025, the Board, by 3-2 vote, denied an application for Planned Unit Development (PUD) Zoning by Lake Louise, LLC, for a 9.48-acre parcel for a 151-unit multi-family development, proximate to a related development within the jurisdiction of the City of Ocala.

Attorney Rob Batsel, Jr., sent a letter to the County on June 27, 2025, requesting the Florida Land Use and Environmental Dispute Resolution Act (FLUEDRA) proceeding. The attorneys have agreed to utilize Attorney Bill Futch to mediate this matter between the parties, and if necessary, conduct the separate dispute resolution hearing.

It will be necessary to have a county representative in addition to the County Attorney for these proceedings, which could be either a Board member or someone from County Administration.

Budget/Impact: None.

Recommended Action: Motion to Designate a County Representative for FLUEDRA proceedings related to Lake Louise, LLC.

County Attorney Minter advised that this Item is in regard to a request for a Dispute Resolution proceeding submitted to the BCC by Attorney Rob Batsel, Jr. This relates to the Board's May 19, 2025 denial of a re-zoning application for a PUD filed by Lake Louise, LLC. He stated the FLUEDRA is a subset of the Bert Harris Act. Mr. Minter advised that this is only the 3rd time since he has been with the County that it has encountered this type of filing, noting the first FLUEDRA was the Compost USA filing against the County back in 2010 and the second one related to the AZ Ocala Ranch filing. He stated it is a 2 step process with the first being a mediation type procedure to determine whether the parties could reach a mutual satisfactory agreement to resolve the dispute. If that fails, then the same person who was the mediator, in this case that would be local attorney William Futch, would then conduct a Special Master hearing in which he would take testimony and that proceeding would result in a recommended order from the Special Magistrate. Mr. Minter clarified that the outcome of the Special Master hearing is not a binding action but would result in the findings by the Special Master as to whether the County did or did not violate Florida Statute. He stated the outcome of that hearing would ultimately create the possibility that the property owner would file a lawsuit. Mr. Minter advised that with regard to the mediation procedure to determine whether the parties could reach a mutual satisfactory agreement, it is recommended that the Board select a representative from the County to attend the mediation with him. He opined that it would be helpful to have one of the three Commissioners that voted against the application be appointed, noting the property owner is likely to be looking to convince one of them to change their minds.

Chairman Bryant commented on the possibility of this issue becoming a lawsuit and questioned whether the Board would have the option to hold a closed session to discuss strategies prior to the mediation. Mr. Minter noted he would review the rules associated with this process and bring that information back to the Board.

Commissioner Zalak commented on a similar situation that happened in another County, noting the Judge in that case determined that the developer should have a specific amount of rights, noting the Board still voted against the request and never had another lawsuit filed in regard to that application.

Mr. Minter advised that in this case, the Letter the BCC received from attorney Batsel indicated that the Board may have violated several different things in its decision, including the Bert Harris claim.

General discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Curry, Mr. Minter opined that once the Board appoints its representative, the mediation proceeding should be held within the next 60 days.

In response to Commissioner Stone, Mr. Minter advised that any matter that can potentially come back to the Board cannot be discussed, noting he will bring back more information relating to holding a closed session.

A motion was made by Commissioner Zalak, seconded by Commissioner Curry, to designate Chairman Bryant as the County Representative for FLUEDRA proceedings related to Lake Louise, LLC. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board (5-0).

Mr. Minter advised that the applicant/property owner should also not approach any Board member relating to this matter.

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

9. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR:

9.1. Request Approval of Marion County's State Legislative Priorities for the 2026 Legislative Session

Legislative Manager Mathew R. Cretul, Administration, presented the following recommendation:

Description/Background: A list of the proposed state-level appropriation requests, as well as proposed statewide and local priorities is presented for board approval. If approved, the statewide priorities will be submitted to the Florida Association of Counties for consideration.

Budget/Impact: None.

Recommended Action: Board consideration and approval of proposed legislative priorities as presented.

Legislative Manager Mathew R. Cretul, Administration, advised of a revision to this Item, noting the 25 page revised handout includes a copy of the old draft Legislative priorities, as well as a clean copy reflecting all of the recommended changes.

Commissioner Bryant referred to Section 1. Appropriations Requests, noting the first request relates to funding the Lowell Municipal Drinking Water Project and questioned whether this should continue to be a Marion County priority. She clarified that it is not a Marion County facility and the County should not be responsible for asking the Legislature for funds to clean up this facility.

Commissioner Stone concurred that it is the State's problem and questioned how will this issue ever get cleaned up if the County does not ask for funding.

General discussion ensued.

Commissioner McClain stated the Board could move that request down to Section III, Marion County - Supported Local Priorities.

Mr. Bouyounes advised that if the Board chooses to leave that request under Section 1, Appropriations Requests, it does not matter about the numerical order, noting staff will apply for funding for all requests on the list. He stated if the Board moves the request

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down to Section III, Marion County - Supported Local Priorities, it becomes just a request that has no attachment to appropriations. Mr. Bouyounes stated the County has already received 2 grants, but the project is still not fully funded.

General discussion resumed.

It was the general consensus of the Board to leave the request under Section 1. Appropriations Requests.

Commissioner Zalak commented on the appropriations request for returning swimming activities to Silver Springs and opined that it is ridiculous that 10 years later the County has to ask for more money to be allocated to this project because of the length of time it has taken to get this request pushed through.

Commissioner Stone opined that the BCC should perform a local PR campaign on this request in order to get the community involved, noting the State promised there would be swimming in the springs at the same time that they took out Wild Waters Waterpark.

Mr. Cretul referred to Section II, Legislative Language Change Requests, as reflected in the Revised handout, noting the first request relates to a Legislation language change that creates a new category of discretionary sales surtax. He commented on conversations happening in Tallahassee as it relates to property taxes and sales taxes, noting one penny in sales tax brings in approximately \$72,000,000.00 to \$74,000,000.00. Mr. Cretul advised that 1 mill brings in approximately \$35,000.00, so 2 mills would generate the same revenue as the one penny tax.

Chairman Bryant advised that she has been in discussions on this matter with Representative Ryan Chamberlin, noting there is an opportunity for Marion County to be utilized as a test case when it comes to the restructuring of property taxes.

General discussion.

In response to Commissioner Curry, Mr. Cretul stated if the BCC chooses to use a sales tax and utilize that revenue to reduce the millage rate, the sales tax referendum would still be decided by local voters.

Mr. Cretul referred to Section II, Legislative Language Change Requests, noting the second item relates to a request for Legislation exempting funds set aside for the completion of inspections on issued permits from Florida Building Code Carryforward Fund limits.

In response to Commissioner McClain, Mr. Bouyounes stated the Building Department's Fund Balance is currently above the maximum allowed; however, staff will be bringing forward a plan at the next BCC meeting that will get the Department into compliance. He stated if the upcoming plan is approved by the Board, then this Legislative request can be removed from the list.

General discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Zalak, Building Safety Director Michael Savage advised that the Department has enough money in the Fund to complete all inspections it has incurred.

It was the general consensus to remove that Legislative request off of the list.

Mr. Cretul stated the third request under Section II, Legislative Language Change Request 1, relates to Legislation raising the Consultants' Competitive Negotiation Act (CCNA) continuing contract study cap for professional services. He advised that although the Legislature wisely increased the construction-related continuing contract cap from \$4,000,000.00 to \$7,500,000.00 in 2024, with Consumer Price Index (CPI) bringing the new cap to \$7,725,000.00 in 2025; however, the study cap remained unchanged at \$500,000.00. The request would raise the study cap to \$800,000.00.

Mr. Cretul stated the fourth request under Section II, Legislative Language Change Requests, relates to Legislation regarding special assessments on agriculturally zoned land. He advised that current law prohibits special assessments from being assessed on vacant property with an agricultural classification. That means vacant properties or those with an agricultural exemption can no longer be included in sharing the cost of the assessment, even if they are located within the neighborhood receiving the infrastructure improvements.

Mr. Cretul stated the fifth request under Section II, Legislative Language Change Requests, relates to Legislation that expressly permits public safety equipment that requires a lease agreement to be classified as infrastructure (i.e., tasers for MCSO).

Mr. Cretul referred to Section III, Marion County - Supported Local Priorities, and Section IV, Marion County – Supported Organizations, noting these items have previously been addressed.

Chairman Bryant referred to Section III, Marion County - Supported Local Priorities, noting the first item is in support to once again allow swimming in Silver Springs, noting that request is already under Section 1, Appropriations Requests. She opined that it is redundant and questioned if the request can be removed from Section III.

General discussion ensued.

Commissioner Bryant referred to item 3, Coordinate State and local efforts to provide effective natural resource management to Silver Glen Springs and the Rainbow River and questioned whether this still needs to be on this list.

General discussion resumed.

It was the general consensus to remove items 1 and 3 from the list of Supported Local Priorities.

Chairman Bryant advised that would only leave item 2, Continued support for funding septic-to-sewer conversion programs and requested further discussion on how successful staff has been with this program.

ACA Angel Roussel advised that the County has been utilizing American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, noting there are 2 ongoing phases of septic-to-sewer happening in Silver Springs Shores, noting each phase is at a cost between \$25,000,000.00 to \$30,000,000.00. He stated there are approximately 1,000 parcels that were given the opportunity to connect. Mr. Roussel noted there was also \$20,000,000.00 in State grant funding as well.

Chairman Bryant referred to Section IV, Marion County – Supported Organizations as it relates to support of the 5th Judicial Circuit's request for additional Special Magistrates operating in Marion County and questioned if this should be moved up to one of the local priorities (Section III, Marion County - Supported Local Priorities). It was the general consensus of the Board to move the matter to Section III, Supported Local Priorities.

Commissioner Zalak opined that the BCC should work Statewide in conjunction with the Clerk's Association to bring this matter to the Legislature.

Commissioner Stone advised that the Board has previously been approached by the College of Central Florida (CF) to support them in their request.

Mr. Bouyounes clarified that he has not received any request for support from CF this year. He stated the County's delegation meeting is scheduled for October 1, 2025.

General discussion ensued.

Commissioner Zalak opined that the BCC needs to also show support for Putnam County's request relating to Rodman Dam.

General discussion resumed.

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Mr. Cretul provided a brief overview of the recommended changes this morning, including keeping all priorities under Section 1 and performing a local PR campaign as it relates to swimming at Silver Springs; removing item 2 under Section II (keeping item 1, 3, 4 and 5); and removing items 1 and 3 under Section III (keeping item 2) and moving the request for support of the 5th Judicial Circuit's request for additional Special Magistrates (Section IV, item 4) up to Section III.

A motion was made by Commissioner Zalak, seconded by Commissioner McClain, to approve the proposed legislative priorities as amended above. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board (5-0).

10. COMMITTEE ITEMS: NONE

11. NOTATION FOR ACTION: NONE

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 to public comment.

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

Commissioner Bryant out at 10:58 a.m.

Joseph Walker, SE 54th Place, Ocklawaha, advised that he met with John Rudnianyn back in May of 2023 regarding litter issues relating to the Maricamp dust bowl area and the property controlled by Mr. Rudnianyn behind the old Ocala K-Mart (as pictured on the overhead screens).

Commissioner Bryant returned at 11:01 a.m.

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

Mr. Walker expressed concern with panhandlers littering on private property. He showed a picture of litter being dumped on Federal property that is not being cleaned up.

Commissioner Curry suggested Mr. Walker call 1-855-745-4887 (855-pik-itup) and reach out to Resource Liaison Lacey Larramore, Solid Waste, who is in charge of the Litter Task Force issues. He stated Marion County has a process to address this issue, which is as good of a process as any other County. Commissioner Curry stated every entity involved (MCSO, Code Enforcement, Florida Forest Service, States Attorney's Office, etc.), is working together to address litter in Marion County.

(Ed. Note: the Deputy Clerk did not receive a copy of the pictures shown by Mr. Walker.)

UPDATE: Mr. Minter provided an update regarding Item 8.1. He advised that under the Sunshine Law, it states that "any County may meet in private with the entities attorney to discuss pending litigation to which the entity is presently a party or before an Administrative agency like the Division of Administrative Hearings". Mr. Minter clarified that the Board is not currently a party in any litigation and is not presently before an Administrative Hearing, noting the BCC would have to be under a lawsuit to have a closed door (shade) meeting.

12. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS – CONTINUED:

Susan Grimstead, NE 30th Court, Anthony, advised that several years ago the County came out and dug 3 swales on 30th Court, noting it worked very well draining water in the area. She stated people then began throwing trash in those swales and she and her husband would have to go out and pick up the trash. Ms. Grimstead advised that she made several calls to the County due to the swales being overgrown and full of trash. Someone finally came out and walked the area; however, nothing has been done. She noted her request is to have someone dig out and clean up those swales.

Chairman Bryant requested ACA Straub assist Ms. Grimstead in regard to this issue. Chairman Bryant advised that public comment is now closed.

UPDATE: Chairman Bryant advised of a special guest that just arrived.

Ms. Diaz introduced Purple Heart recipient Sargeant F. L. Brown, US Army.

Chairman Bryant advised that it was the Board's honor to recognize Sargeant F. L. Brown for his service to our Country.

13. COMMISSIONER ITEMS:

13.1. Commission Comments

Commissioner McClain advised that he met with the House Majority Whip from the State of Ohio, who was considering moving to Marion County. He stated the gentleman was very impressed with how clean and beautiful Marion County is compared to other places he has seen.

Commissioner McClain expressed his appreciation to staff, noting an employee fund raiser was held last week for County employee Tom Ohlman.

(Ed. Note: a House Majority Whip is the second highest ranking member of the majority in the House of Representatives following the speaker).

Commissioner Zalak welcomed the Cal Ripken World Series to Marion County, noting he is happy to see international teams come from all over the world to participate here in this community.

Commissioner Zalak requested Board support in his pursuit of the Office of Second Vice-President for the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) this year. He opined that it is a chance to give a larger voice to Ocala/Marion County. Commissioner Zalak commented on the achievements and examples set by Chairman Bryant, noting she has been a powerful example of leadership and advocacy for the County.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioner McClain, to support Commissioner Zalak in his bid for Office of Second Vice-President for the FAC. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board (5-0).

Chairman Zalak returned the gavel to Commissioner Byrant who resumed the Chair.

Commissioner Curry commented on Marion County veteran Hammet Bowen who received the distinguished Medal of Honor for sacrificing his life during the Vietnam War. He stated he would like to learn more information about the stories of the local Purple Heart recipients that were honored this morning. Commissioner Curry commented on the possibility of making the recognition more personalized next year. Commissioner Zalak concurred, noting he would like to also include their recognition as part of the America 250 celebration next year.

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Commissioner Stone commented on including/chronicling their stories as part of the Historical Society.

Chairman Bryant requested Mr. Calhoun document their stories so that they may be included on the Veterans Helping Veterans website and included on the Agenda next year.

Mr. Calhoun advised that 10 years ago Ken Colen commissioned a book that told the war stories of those who served in World War II (WWII), Korea, and Vietnam. He opined that it is time for another documentary to memorialize their stories.

Commissioner Curry advised that there is a Veterans Coordinating Council that holds quarterly meetings, noting the next meeting is scheduled on August 21, 2025 and requested ACA Tart place this matter on that upcoming agenda for discussion.

13.2. Commission Calendar

13.2.1. Present Commission Calendar

The Chairman acknowledged receipt of the Commission calendar covering the period of August 5, 2025 through September 3, 2025.

14. NOTATION FOR RECORD:

14.1. County Administrator Informational Items:

14.1.1. Present Solid Waste Monthly Operations Report for June 2025

14.1.2. Present Update on 2022-26 Strategic Plan Empowering Marion for Success II for July 2025

14.1.3. Present the Monthly Building Safety Productivity Report for the Month of June 2025

14.1.4. Present Letters of Support to the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council Dated July 18, 2025 Regarding Florida Commerce Technical Assistance Grant Proposal

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

14.3. Clerk of the Court:

14.3.1. Present Memorandum from Gregory C. Harrell, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, Regarding the Filing of Ordinances 25-27, 25-28, and 25-29 With the Secretary of State's Office

14.3.2. Present Update for Sheriff Budget FY 2025-26

14.3.3. Present Update for Property Appraiser Budget FY 2025-26

14.3.4. Present Administrative Transfer Report for FY 2024-25

14.3.5. Present Regular Report of Utilization for Reserve for Contingencies

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

14.4.1. Code Enforcement Board - June 11, 2025

14.4.2. Development Review Committee - June 30 and July 7, 2025

14.4.3. Land Development Regulation Committee - June 18, 2025

14.4.4. License Review Board - June 10, 2025

14.5. General Informational Items:

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

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

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

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

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

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting thereupon adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

Kathy Bryant, Chairman

Attest:

Gregory C. Harrell, Clerk

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