

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA  
REGULAR MEETING  
JUNE 16, 2025

NOTE: If any person decides to appeal any decision made with respect to any matter considered at this meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made.

PRESIDING: Channing Dobbs, Chair

RECORDING: Reagan E. Robinson, Deputy Clerk

ATTENDING: Commissioner Mac Johns; Commissioner Donna Jackson; Commissioner Willie Croft; James Williams, County Coordinator; Russell A. Wade III, County Attorney

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Chairman Dobbs called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

Commissioner Jackson offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**Commissioner Jackson moved to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Johns seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Hearing no requests to speak, Chair Dobbs closed the floor to public comments.

**APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

Chair Dobbs read the list of minutes to be considered. Commissioner Jackson asked that the May 15 Public Hearing minutes be pulled from consideration due a miswording of her suggested edit. She also noted that Mr. Allen Parrish name is in the June 2 Regular Business Meeting minutes twice, when he should only be listed once. **Commissioner Jackson moved to adopt minutes from the May 19, 2025 Regular Meeting, June 2, 2025 Regular Business Meeting with the change of removing the duplication of Allen Parrish's name, June 2, 2025 Planning & Zoning Public Hearing, and June 2, 2025 Public Hearing. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

**Commissioner Jackson moved to approve the invoices for payment. Commissioner Johns seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

**BUDGET REQUEST FROM MERIDIAN HEALTHCARE**

Ms. Ashley Brooks provided an overview of Meridian's Annual Report. She then requested the same as last year's request, which meets the minimum match requirement of \$37,500. Chair Dobbs reiterated questions asked by the Board in the previous year that they never received answers to, including if the inmate population is factored into the calculation used to find the amount requested. He also asked if they had considered reaching out to other entities like the City of Lake Butler, as well as how much the Union County School Board contributes. Commissioner Jackson thanked her for not requesting an increase and noted that the Board is unable to provide a definitive answer until the budget is considered later in the year.

**CONSIDERATION TO AWARD 92<sup>ND</sup> ST/146<sup>TH</sup> LN/52<sup>ND</sup> CT PROJECT**

Mr. Williams noted that the County was able to obtain the additional funding for the project. He asked for the consideration of the Board to award the project to Preferred Contractors at \$2,213,146.79. He shared that they were the only construction bid and that DOT is making up the difference. **Commissioner Johns moved to move forward with Preferred. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

**CONSIDERATION TO APPOINT A MEMBER TO THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA HOMELESS CONTINUUM OF CARE**

Mr. Williams explained that this DCF has included Union County in this group to receive \$150,000 to help with poverty levels and the homelessness population in our community. He noted that they ask that a Board member serve on this board. The Board agreed to push it to the July 7 Regular Business Meeting, so Commissioner McNeal could be present when considering who to appoint.

**CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 2025-06, COMBINING LOTS 6 & 7 OF NEW RIVER ESTATES**

Attorney Wade explained that these lots are in Worthington Springs and that their council has already approved the combination. **Commissioner Croft moved to adopt Resolution 2025-06. Commissioner Johns seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

**CONSIDERATION OF V.S. ROBINSON CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR COURTHOUSE SECURITY UPGRADES**

Mr. Williams asked that this item be moved to the July 7 Regular Business Meeting due to it still being reviewed by the Office of the State Courts Administrator (OSCA). The Board agreed to postpone this item of business.

**REPORT FROM COUNTY COORDINATOR, JIMMY WILLIAMS AND REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS**

Mr. Williams provided updates on the Providence Fire Station, New Fire Station Headquarters Grant, FRDAP Grant and Agricultural Education Building Grant, and reminded everyone that the employee appreciation luncheon is July 11.

Mr. Lamar Griffis, Solid Waste Director, stated that everything is good in the Solid Waste Department.

Mr. Chris Griffis, Road Superintendent, shared that everything is running great. Chair Dobbs noted the impact of large trucks on roads in his district. Commissioner Jackson suggested bringing the resolution regarding making these individuals pay for the damages drafted by Attorney Wade on behalf of Commissioner Croft up for consideration. Commissioner Johns noted the adverse impact of the new lumber yard and complaints regarding such from citizens. The Board discussed possible solutions to this issue with Attorney Wade, including signs, permitting restrictions and even passing a resolution to set a weight limit, as well as other provisions. They then entered into discussion regarding the road makeup, resurfacing and the possibility of the business obtaining property that will allow them room to turn around. Mr. Williams suggested he obtain pricing for conducting road tests. Attorney Wade entered into discussion regarding the zoning of the property and the power the Board could enact in order to resolve the situation. Commissioner Jackson noted that she doesn't want to see the business or citizens impacted, but that the issue has to be resolved and citizens must be safe.

Mrs. Priti McNutt, Mary C. Brown Public Library Director, stated that everything is going well.

Mr. Brent Allen, EMS Director, presented his first report, which consisted of statistics from the month of May. He also shared updates from happenings within the department and with Volunteer Fire.

**REPORT FROM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Jackson shared that the Florida Association of Counties Conference is the upcoming week, and that herself, Commissioner McNeal and Mr. Williams will be attending. She also asked for updates regarding insurance discussion. Commissioner Jackson asked that the Insurance Committee be revived so they can review the proposals as individuals who will be using it. Mr. Williams noted that he will get some dates together for the committee to possibly meet. She closed by addressing a landowner in her district is looking to build on family land, but the property has a 20-foot easement with three houses already built on it. Attorney Wade noted that the current regulations inhibit a fourth house from being built. He suggested a variance be presented to the Board. Commissioner Jackson asked how the County needs to proceed with this issue, considering she does not want to put a roadblock in their process. The Board entered into discussion regarding the easement and solutions. **Commissioner Jackson moved to grant a variance to allow these citizens to build on their land. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

Chair Dobbs thanked Mr. Chris Griffis for his efforts over the weekend.

Commissioner Johns shared how successful recreation is becoming, especially Pop Warner. He also noted a fundraiser golf tournament that is taking place over the weekend. He then stated that Babe Ruth is competing in district competition, and that Mr. Kyler Cohen's 10U team is competing in a regional competition in Suwannee County vying for a chance to compete at the next level.

Commissioner Croft thanked all of the County's employees.

Seeing no further business, Chair Dobbs adjourned the meeting by general consent at 7:18 P.M.

*Adopted by vote of the Board of County Commissioners on July 21, 2025.*