

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA  
REGULAR MEETING  
AUGUST 18, 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 Willie Croft
- ☒ Commissioner Channing Dobbs
- ☒ Commissioner Donna Jackson
- ☒ Commissioner Mac Johns
- ☒ Commissioner Melissa McNeal

- ☒ Kellie Hendricks Rhoades, Clerk of Courts & Comptroller
- ☒ Russell A. Wade III, County Attorney
- ☒ Jimmy Williams, County Coordinator
- ☒ Pamela Woodington, Finance Director
- ☒ Dianne Hannon, Board Secretary

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Chair Dobbs called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

Commissioner Croft offered the prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Sheriff Brad Whitehead shared that a Sexual Predator Ordinance would come before the Board tonight. He stated that it would extend the distance that registered sex offenders cannot reside within around schools, bus stops and churches from 1,000 feet to 2,500 feet.

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

**PRESENTATION BY CHUCK BRANNAN, STATE REPRESENTATIVE**

House Representative Chuck Brannan introduced himself before reviewing the funding that he was able to secure for the County. These projects include the new Public Safety Complex (approx. \$16,000,000), Courthouse Renovations (\$850,000) and Restoration (\$375,000), a new Fire and Rescue Station (approx. \$2,000,000), the new Lake Butler Elementary School (\$30,000,000) and numerous DOT grants for road projects within the County. He noted that the only requests vetoed in the district were in Alachua County. He shared some of the work he has done while serving on Florida House subcommittees, and closed by providing updates on some of the legislation that will be considered in future sessions. The Board thank him for his efforts in advocating for Union County and for the funding he has brought to the County.

**APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

Chair Dobbs read the list of minutes to be considered. Commissioner Jackson asked the August 4, 2025 Board of

Adjustments Public Hearing minutes be pulled due to the switching of tense throughout. She also asked that the July 29 Budget Meeting minutes be amended to reflect that Chair Dobbs wasn't present at the July 29 meeting and that Commissioner Jackson was presiding. **Commissioner Jackson moved to adopt the Consent Agenda, which includes the Finance Report and minutes from the July 21, 2025 Regular Meeting, July 21 Board of Adjustments Public Hearing, August 4, 2025 Regular Business Meeting, and the July 29, 2025 Budget Meeting Reconvened August 5, 2025 as amended. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

Clerk Rhoades presented Budget Amendment 2025-12 and Resolution BA 2025-07 to the Board. **Commissioner Jackson moved to adopt Budget Amendment 2025-12 and corresponding Resolution BA 25-07. Commissioner Johns seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

#### **CONSIDERATION OF BUDGET REQUEST FOR ACORN CLINIC AND UNION COUNTY IMPACT**

Ms. Tina Lloyd, representing both the Acorn Clinic and Union County Impact Initiative, came before the Board to request funding to support these programs. She noted that the clinic sees on average 35 patients a day from 27 counties, including resident from Union County. She shared that they lose \$87 every time a patient walks in their doors. Ms. Lloyd stated that because of this Acorn Clinic needs continued support. She requested that \$5,000 be allocated toward the clinic in the Board's budget.

She then informed the Board about Union County Impact Initiative, which is a nonprofit which allows businesses to market themselves and cite disparities within the County. She noted opportunity for grants for County citizens like hurricane preparation through their organization. She requested \$10,000 in funding from the Board and noted that the County would see this funding return. Ms. Lloyd highlighted some of their initiatives including transportation and health focused weight loss programs.

Commissioner Jackson commended the organization's efforts but shared she would need to have a greater accountability for the projects. Ms. Lloyd noted that transportation is their main focus with goals to purchase and staff their own vehicles. Commissioner McNeal entered the discussion sharing information about similar organizations and the opportunity they could help provide. Commissioner Johns stated that the Board cannot just donate tax dollars and Commissioner Jackson agreed, noting that the Board doesn't really donate at all. Commissioner Johns closed by stating that they do great work, but that he doesn't know if the County can afford to support Impact at this time, or if it is legal.

#### **COMPLAINT OF PROPERTY FLOODING, 15342 SW 91<sup>ST</sup> WAY, LAKE BUTLER**

Mr. Williams shared that he received a complaint regarding a property flooding. He noted that Jones Edmunds visited the location and is going to add it to the vulnerability assessment.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF A NOTICE OF INTENT TO VACATE PLAT**

Attorney Wade explained that Ms. Linda Johns and Mr. Blake Dicks have requested that west side of 231 on an old plat be vacated because the land was never developed and Mr. Dicks would like to build a home on it. Clerk Rhoades noted that not all the platted land is owned by these individuals, rather some is held in an estate by another family. With this in mind, Attorney Wade recommended that the Board vacate all lots owned by Mr. Dicks and Ms. Johns. **Commissioner Jackson moved to vacate all lots owned by Mr. Blake Dicks and Ms. Linda Johns, including roads and easements contained therein. Commissioner Johns seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

### **JONES EDMUNDS PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT**

Mr. Williams shared an agreement with the New River Solid Waste Association which was extended in February and has to be approved by each County. Clerk Rhoades asked for clarification, that it appears to increase hourly rates for monitoring. This was confirmed by the Board. Commissioner Jackson read the header and discussion ensued regarding its purpose and impact. **Commissioner Croft moved to approve the agreement. Commissioner Johns seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

### **JONES EDMUNDS WORK ORDER #3**

Mr. Williams noted that this is a follow up regarding the old landfill monitoring for \$28,000. Commissioner Johns asked if there is any chance of us getting out of it. Mr. Williams noted that he will continue to try to do so in Tallahassee, but was doubtful. **Commissioner Jackson moved to approve the work order. Commissioner McNeal seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

### **CONSIDERATION OF AWARD FOR 238N PROJECT**

Mr. Williams shared that the County has received additional funding from the FDOT for this project. He noted that the County received four bids for this project, with the low bid being Anderson Columbia at \$4,808,114. **Commissioner Jackson moved to award the bid to Anderson Columbia. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

### **CONSIDERATION TO ADVERTISE PROPOSED ORDINANCE 2025-02**

Attorney Wade explained that this is the ordinance Sheriff Whitehead discussed earlier in the meeting. He stated that it is not up for vote, just for consideration to advertise. **Commissioner McNeal moved to advertise Ordinance 2025-02. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

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

Mr. Williams explained that Mr. Tim Allen, Emergency Management Director, needs to put out an RFQ for the generator project for the new school, and needs a committee to be formed in order to do so. **Commissioner Jackson moved to appoint Mr. Allen, Mrs. Woodington, Ms. Clemons and a Union County School Board representative to this committee. Commissioner Johns seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

Mr. Williams then shared a list of action items he compiled with the Board and explained each item. The Board entered into discussion regarding these items including but not limited to the codification process, DOGE reporting, LDR amendments, code enforcement and the RV Moratorium, where Chair Dobbs specified that the Board has never considered taking the medical hardship opportunity away from the community. Commissioner Jackson reiterated his point stating that permanent RV residency has never been allowed nor it is allowed under County or State law.

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

Mrs. Priti McNutt, Mary C. Brown Public Library Director, stated that they are doing well.

Mr. Brent Allen, EMS Director, shared that the new ambulance was approved and has been well received by staff.

Mr. Jim DeValerio, UF/IFAS County Extension Director, shared that everything is going well at the Extension Office and that the new building is coming along.

**REPORT KELLIE HENDRICKS RHOADES, CLERK OF COURTS AND COMPTROLLER**

Clerk Rhoades shared that she received a call from Mr. Zach Chalifour of James Moore sharing that the audit cost would increase by a CPI with a maximum of 3%. She provided examples of what surrounding counties pay.

Commissioner McNeal asked if there are downsides of going out for RFPs and Clerk Rhoades informed her that if done, James Moore would incur costs in responding and might come back with an even higher rate. She noted that it is usually a good idea to bid, but because Union County was their first client when breaking into the government market, the current rates are already set at preferred pricing. The Board requested the result of Jefferson County's RFP proposals. Clerk Rhoades noted that she will let the Board know what firm Jefferson County selects.

Clerk Rhoades also asked that the Board designate Sheriff Whitehead to sign off on the purchase orders for the new phase of the Public Safety Complex. **Commissioner Jackson moved to designate Sheriff Whitehead to sign off on purchase orders for the new phase of the Public Safety Complex. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

**REPORT FROM RUSSELL A. WADE III, COUNTY ATTORNEY**

Attorney Wade reiterated that the codification example was received and that he is reviewing it.

**REPORT FROM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Jackson shared that she received an email from a concerned citizen regarding a lack of access to the agenda's supporting documents. She requested that all items relating to the agenda be placed on the website with a hard deadline of the Thursday before the meeting at 12:00 p.m. Discussion ensued regarding the Finance Report deadline on Friday at open of business. Clerk Rhoades stated that she didn't want to rush and put out bad information, and can work late to get it done, but noon on Thursday is not always possible. She suggested that a link be placed on the website that could be updated after the fact.

Commissioner Jackson shared that she understands things happen and offered that the Clerk aim for Thursday at noon, rather than it being a hard deadline. Commissioner McNeal suggested a link be posted for citizens Thursday night and a printed copy be obtained by the Board members Friday morning. Clerk Rhoades noted that the Clerk's Office will have a new website within the month due to difficulties with the current company, and that they may be able to integrate the new website with the County's. Mrs. Hannon concluded that this was the reason the minutes hadn't been working. The Board agreed to these deadlines: Wednesday at 12 p.m. for the agenda and supporting documents, the Finance Report as soon as possible on Thursday, and Thursday at 12 p.m. for everything else.

Chair Dobbs expressed his concern that truckers are dropping their trailers on roads and curbs, which could lead to fatal accidents. Attorney Wade stated that these trailers are abandoned in a County right of way, which is a hazard and goes against a Florida Statute. He noted that the County has the right to immediately remove them. Commissioner Johns shared that removal is the Sheriff's responsibility and that he would be glad to do it.

Commissioner McNeal stated that it has been quiet in Worthington Springs.

Commissioner Johns discussed the road damage due to large trucks exiting Southland Wood and Steel in Providence. He suggested blocking access to the road behind the business that are causing the damage, and that a formal complaint had been filed due to safety concerns. Commissioner Croft stated that this had been a business for as long as he had known. Commissioner Johns asked for the issue to be put on the agenda and that the Board make a

Regular Meeting  
August 18, 2025

decision on the issue. Commissioner Jackson and Commissioner McNeal both shared that they spoke to the business owner where he stated that he didn't see any damage but would be more than happy to fix any that has occurred. Commissioner Jackson expressed that only one neighbor appears to have an issue and her main concern was that action on this issue could open an unwanted can of worms.

Commissioner Croft shared that everything is quiet in his neck of the woods.

Seeing no further business, Chair Dobbs adjourned the meeting by general consent at 8:20 p.m.

*Adopted by vote of the Board of County Commissioners on September 15, 2025.*