

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
SEPTEMBER 2, 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:

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Willie Croft | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kellie Hendricks Rhoades, Clerk of Courts & Comptroller |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Channing Dobbs | <input type="checkbox"/> Russell A. Wade III, County Attorney |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Donna Jackson | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jimmy Williams, County Coordinator |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Mac Johns | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pamela Woodington, Finance Director |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Melissa McNeal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dianne Hannon, Board Secretary |

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chair Dobbs called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

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

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Commissioner Jackson moved to adopt the agenda, along with the addendum agenda and moving Budget Discussion to Item No. 3 on the addendum agenda. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

APPROVAL OF THE FINANCE REPORT

Commissioner Jackson moved to approve the Finance Report. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

CONTRACT BETWEEN THE COUNTY AND THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Commissioner Jackson read through the contract and asked if the Board is receiving the quarterly reports referenced in it. Mr. Williams informed her the Board is not, to his knowledge. Commissioner Jackson asked if he would look into obtaining them.

UNION COUNTY SMALL COUNTY CONSOLIDATED SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT GRANT

Mrs. Woodington shared that this is a normal Solid Waste grant. Commissioner Jackson moved to approve the grant in the amount of \$93,750. Commissioner Johns seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

STATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT SCOOCEP, AMENDMENT NO. 1

Mr. Williams explained agreement and noted that it is for \$850,000. Commissioner Jackson moved to accept the agreement. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

REPORT FROM COUNTY COORDINATOR, JIMMY WILLIAMS

Mr. Williams provided updates on projects around the County including 92nd Street and the Courthouse roof. He then moved on to the addendum agenda. He first presented the State Aid to Libraries Agreement. **Commissioner Jackson moved to approve the agreement. Commissioner McNeal seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

Mr. Williams then provided an updated on the 238-N Agreement and reviewed the Board Priorities list. Discussion then ensued regarding LDR amendments and new regulations, as well as their impact on the Board's objectives. Mr. Williams then asked to propose a policy change as to how the County gives raises. He noted that it is only for review at the current meeting. Commissioner Jackson stated that she doesn't know how the Board can put a new policy into effect when the Commissioners are struggling to balance the budget. She also expressed her concerns that the proposed policy could be abused. Mr. Williams responded, stating that pay scales can easily be put into place. Discussion ensued regarding the proposed changes. Commissioner Johns highlighted how giving pay raises so transparently could cause friction among employees. Commissioner Jackson cautioned how these changes could impact the budget. Mr. Williams went on to state that the presented policy amendments would make the process move smoother. Commissioner Johns shared his thoughts that the directors should be allowed to be directors and handle the responsibility of evaluating raises. He stated that the Board needs to stop micromanaging the directors. Commissioner Johns then asked Clerk Rhoades if the County is that bad off. Clerk Rhoades informed Commissioner Johns that \$1.7 million of the Fund Balance are currently being budgeted to be expended, which is the same as last year, and as a result, she is currently projecting a \$520,000 loss. She cautioned that if the Board continues to spend more than the County brings in, the County will be in a very bad position. Commissioner Jackson stated that she doesn't feel the Board is micromanaging the directors, rather is concerned about them handing out raises indiscriminately.

Mr. Brent Allen, EMS Director, owned up to his mistake of not correctly estimating Bad Debt Adjustments, which affected the transfer needs. He noted that Clerk Rhoades caught the issue and worked with him to resolve it. Discussion ensued regarding the Medical Director and the budgeted transfer from the General Fund, which was \$400,000 in the two years, prior with \$200,000 being used in Fund Balance. Clerk Rhoades specified that this is a consistent, healthy amount to keep in the account.

The Board then continued into difficult discussion regarding pay increases, including the possibility of raising COLA to 4%. The Board ultimately decided that it should remain at 3%.

REPORT FROM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Johns thanked Mr. Allen for having an ambulance on standby at the Pop Warner game. He noted that he requested for one to be present in the past, but one never made it.

Seeing no further business, Chair Dobbs adjourned the meeting by general consent at 6:35 p.m.

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