BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 19, 2026

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: Erin Elixson, 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
- ☑ Heather Register, Board Secretary

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chair Dobbs called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Commissioner Jackson 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.

CLERK'S ACTION ITEMS

- **Commissioner Jackson moved to approve the minutes from the September 21, 2026 Final Budget Hearing, the September 21, 2026 Regular Meeting, and the October 5, 2026 Regular Business Meeting. Commissioner Johns seconded the motion and it passed unanimously**.
- Clerk Rhoades gave the Finance Report and noted a Special Action Item: an updated invoice from CSI Geo provided by Mr. Williams. **Commissioner McNeal moved to approve the finance report with the Special Action Item as presented. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**
- Budget Amendment 2026-13: **Commissioner Jackson made the motion to accept Budget Amendment 2026-13 and Commissioner McNeal seconded the motion. It passed unanimously**.

CONSIDERATION OF NCFRPC AGREEMENTS FOR COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING AND HAZARDOUS WASTE

- **Commissioner McNeal moved to approve the agreements between the County and the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council for Local Government Comprehensive Planning Services. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**
- **Commissioner Jackson moved to approve the agreement between the County and the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council for Annual Monitoring of Hazardous Waste Generators. Commissioner Johns seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

DISCUSSION OF WATER SUPPLY FOR RIDING CLUB

Mrs. Janice Parrish, President of the Union County Riding Club, was present to discuss the irrigation well at the Riding Club that is used regularly by the Lake Butler Collection Site next door. She informed the Board that UCRC is 65 years old and the healthiest riding club in northeast Florida. The Riding Club is always grateful for the County's support and everything the County has done and is doing for the club. The well at the Riding Club is an irrigation well and not supposed to be used daily. Daily use by the Lake Butler Collection site has damaged the well and the Riding Club has incurred a $4,000 cost to fix the pump. The Riding Club requested that the County put down its own well at the Collection Site so that the UCRC pump will not withstand continual use and breakdown. There were some questions about the usage of the pump and how often the Riding Club uses it. Mrs. Parrish clarified that the pump is really only used twice a month on ride nights, and that the Riding Club would be happy to take care of the pump repair cost if the County would stop using it and put down their own well. Mr. Williams said that he would get several quotes on a well for the collection site.

Commissioner Jackson moved to allow Mr. Jimmy Williams to get quotes on a well for the Lake Butler Collection Site. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR EMS POLICY

Commissioner McNeal moved to approve the letter of support for an EMS Policy to encourage legislative change regarding EMS billing. Commissioner Johns seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF CHANGE ORDER FOR COURTHOUSE WINDOW PROJECT

Mr. Williams explained that there was a change order for the Courthouse Window Project. The contractor found asbestos caulk in the windows and has to follow a remediation plan by law. The revised change order total cost is $31,936.00. **Commissioner Jackson moved to approve the change order and Commissioner McNeal seconded the motion. It passed unanimously**.

CONSIDERATION OF BUILDING DEPARTMENT/BOARD OFFICE DOOR REPLACEMENT

Mr. Jimmy Williams said that the door lock keeps falling off on the Board Office door, on the building department side, and that he plans to replace it himself. The lock and dead bolt will cost around $100.

DISCUSSION OF FARMERS MARKET

Mr. Jimmy Williams recommended that the Board allow Mr. Russ Wade, County Attorney, to draft a set of by-laws for the farmer's market, and that these by-laws would be on the next meeting agenda. Once the by-laws are approved and a Board is determined, the farmer's market will be able to apply for 501(c)(3) and start raising funds. Mr. Wade asked for some clarification on a few things, particularly how many people would be on the board, and Commissioners confirmed five board members. Commissioner McNeal requested that one member of the board be a liaison between farmers and the farmer's market board.

Commissioner McNeal moved to have the County Attorney draft the by-laws for the farmer's market. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL PERMIT FOR REGULATOR STATION AND LINES EASEMENT

There is a need to put a new gas pipe down to supply the prison and it will go on County property alongside the road leading into the O.J. Phillips Recreational Complex. Attorney Wade reported that everything had been properly filed, and that the Board would be granting a special permit and also approving an easement. He provided extra documents for the Board so that they could see where exactly the pipeline would run across O.J. Phillips and in relation to the Ag Building.

Commissioner Jackson made the motion to approve the Regular Easement Agreement between Union County and Florida Public Utilities Company, and approval of the Special Permit. Commissioner McNeal seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Williams reported the following:

- The Road Department had a loader down. It had an estimated repair cost of $8k-$12k.
- The New River Library Director resigned, and Mrs. Priti McNutt is filling the role in the interim.
- The first Financial Review Workshop will be November 2nd at 3:30PM.
- Nationwide will be available, for Board employees only, on November 11th from 10:30-2:30. Chair Dobbs mentioned that he had a meeting scheduled for the same day at 2:30PM and would probably be late to the Financial Review Meeting.

Mr. Lamar Griffis, Solid Waste Director- Mr. Griffis reported that Raiford Day was the previous Saturday and it was a great day. Animal Control had an adoption event there and found homes for several animals.

Mr. Brent Allen, EMS Director- The third truck is up and running and should be more consistent by the middle of November. He reported that the County should start seeing calls go up. He thanked the Clerk for getting letters of support for legislation from some other counties. Chair Dobbs asked for an update from the State Meetings. Mr. Allen replied that the meetings are three times a year and that the legislation he helped author was gaining momentum. An advocacy group in Washington had reached out to him earlier in the week.

REPORT FROM KELLIE HENDRICKS RHOADES, CLERK OF COURTS AND COMPTROLLER

Clerk Rhoades asked the Board if they would like language on the agenda items ahead of time to help make wording of motions easier. It was decided that it would be tried at the next regular meeting of the Board to see if it would be helpful to Commissioners.

REPORT FROM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Jackson reported that an email was sent from Steven O. Cain from the Florida Association of Counties regarding a statutory reporting requirement for local government financial reporting pursuant to Section 129.03. Out of 67 counties in Florida, Union is 1 out of 8 counties that did not report. Clerk Rhoades confirmed that it was submitted on October 19th.

Commissioner Dobbs thanked Mr. and Lamar Griffis for putting hours and days into preparing for Raiford Days. He commended their hard work and long hours to make the event go well. Commissioner Dobbs also noted that Mr. Chris Griffis and the Road Department has been busy in his district because of flooded roads. There were some residents in his district that couldn't get out of their homes due to flooding.

Commissioner McNeal had some projects with the Road Department coming up in the near future.

Commissioner Johns took some time to ride with Mr. Chris Griffis to see some of the Road Department projects in other districts. He asserted that the Road Department and Solid Waste have been cut down to bare bones and there is simply nowhere else to cut. Also, Commissioner Johns got to go watch his son play ball in Tampa. In the Recreation Department last year, a lot of money and effort was put into Pop Warner. This year they are focusing on building the cheer program and it had paid off because the cheer team won 1st place in their recent competition.

The newly elected soccer President is Brittany Przekop and he would like her put on the Rec Board representing soccer and replacing Jeff Casey's spot.

Chair Dobbs commended grader operator Brian Griffis from the Road Department. He was working on a flooded road where some residents were unable to leave or get groceries delivered. Mr. Griffis had them order groceries and then he was able to get them delivered to the stranded residents.
He also announced that two men from Union County, Michael Johnson and Derrick Daniels, won the 2026 Falcon Boat Series Championship in Okeechobee.

There were no public comments.

The meeting was adjourned by general consent at 7:09PM.

Seeing no further business, Chair Dobbs adjourned the meeting by general consent at 5:48 PM.

Approved by vote of the Board of County Commissioners on November 16, 2026.