



DeSoto County

Board of County Commissioners

Meeting Minutes - Final

Tuesday, April 14, 2026

9:00 AM

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioner JC Deriso
Commissioner Judy Schaefer
Commissioner Steven Hickox
Commissioner Elton Langford
Commissioner Jerod Gross

TURN OFF OR SILENCE ALL CELL PHONES

PRAYER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chaplain Amanda Reuter gave the invocation.

INTRODUCTION OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

SET/AMEND

A motion was made by Commissioner Schaefer, seconded by Commissioner Gross, to set the agenda . The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Deriso, Schaefer, Hickox, Langford, and Gross

PUBLIC FORUM FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Ashley Brown, Community Outreach Coordinator for the school district, shared several important announcements. Ms. Carol Mahler, representing the DeSoto County Historical Society, announced the upcoming grand re-opening of The John Morgan Ingraham House Museum May 1, 2026 at 10am. Joseph Minore addressed the Board once again regarding his proposal for a rezone to offer primitive camping on his property for a fee, questioning as to when would it be coming in front of the Board for a vote as he has been in this process for a year now.

CONSENT AGENDA-MOTION TO APPROVE

Approval of the Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Commissioner Gross, seconded by Commissioner Langford, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Deriso, Schaefer, Hickox, Langford, and Gross

1. Sufficiency of Surety Bond for County Administrator

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- Attachments:** [Bond Continuation Certificate with POA Eff 4.29.2026 Mandy Hi Sufficiency Bonds Listing - 4-14-26](#)
2. **Memorandum of Agreement between the DeSoto County BOCC & FEMA Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) Program Management Office**
- Attachments:** [FL DeSoto County Board of County Commissioners IPAWS MOA_App-4762 COG MOA 2026](#)
3. **Agreement/Florida Power & Light**
- Attachments:** [FPL Agreement](#)
[ASSIST Agency Working Agreement - 2026.pdf](#)
4. **Vaccine Clinic & Adoption Event**
5. **Letter of Support for FHERO**
- Attachments:** [Support-DeSoto-2026 - tc](#)
6. **Grant Agreement Amendment #12252 / Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission**
- Attachments:** [12252-A3 DeSoto County - Amendment 3](#)
[12252 DeSoto County - Site Dedication 2014.04.02](#)
[12252 DeSoto County - Agreement Lettuce Lake Grant](#)
7. **Purchase of a 2026 Ford F150 4x4 truck for the Building Department**
- Attachments:** [QUOTE DESOTO F150 8BED](#)
[Preview Order A661 - F1L - 4x4 XL Regular Cab- DESOTO](#)
8. **Minutes/BOCC Public Meeting 03-10-2026 and BOCC Workshop 03-10-2026**
- Attachments:** [BOCC Meeting Minutes 03-10-26](#)
[BOCC Planning and Zoning Workshop 03-10-26](#)
9. **Utilities Purchase of Water/Wastewater Treatment Chemicals / Hawkins, Inc. / Contract Renewal**
- Attachments:** [22-08-00ITB Amendment #4 - Renewal](#)
[Hawkins, Inc. Renewal Letter](#)
10. **Herbicide Application Services / Aquatic Weed Control, Inc. / Contract Renewal**
- Attachments:** [25-09-00ITB Amendment #1](#)
[Aquatic Weed Control, Inc. Renewal Letter](#)
11. **Amendment / Grant Agreement with the Florida Department of Emergency Management**
- Attachments:** [D1489 DeSoto County Extension- Mod #1](#)
12. **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between CareerSource Heartland and DeSoto BOCC**
- Attachments:** [MOU - CSH DSED Career Source \(002\)](#)
13. **Resolution / Supplemental Agreement / FDOT SCOP S.W. Liverpool Road**
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Attachments: [448741-1-54-01 Resolution - Supplemental Agreement](#)
 [448741-1-54-01 Draft Supplemental Agm - initialed](#)
 Enactment No: 2026-030

REGULAR BUSINESS

14. Proclamation/Water Conservation Month

Attachments: [Proclamation - Water Conservation Month 2026](#)

Greg Harris, Utilities Director read the Proclamation into record proclaiming April 2026 as "Water Conservation Month".

A motion was made by Commissioner Langford, seconded by Commissioner Deriso, to approve this Proclamation. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Deriso, Schaefer, Hickox, Langford, and Gross

15. Proclamation/Child Abuse Prevention Month

Attachments: [Child Abuse Prevention Month 2026](#)

Mandy Hines read the Proclamation into record To proclaim April 2026 as "Child Abuse Prevention Month".

A motion was made by Commissioner Schaefer, seconded by Commissioner Gross, to approve this Proclamation. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Deriso, Schaefer, Hickox, Langford, and Gross

16. Proclamation/Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Attachments: [Sexual Assult Awareness Month 2026](#)

Mandy Hines read the Proclamation into record to proclaim the month of April 2025, as "Sexual Assault Awareness Month".

A motion was made by Commissioner Deriso, seconded by Commissioner Langford, to approve this Proclamation. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Deriso, Schaefer, Hickox, Langford, and Gross

17. Purchase of a Wesco Model FF-4 "Assistant Fire Chief" - Fire Training Tower

Attachments: [Fire Facilities- Piggyback Contract and proposal](#)

Chad Jorgensen, Fire Chief presented a request to approve the Purchase of a Wesco Model FF-4 "Assistant Fire Chief" - Fire Training Tower and authorize the County Administrator to approve the Purchase order.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gross, seconded by Commissioner Langford, to approve the Purchase of a Wesco Model FF-4 Fire Training Tower. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Deriso, Schaefer, Hickox, Langford, and Gross

18. Accounts and Warrants Drawn Per Schedule of Bills Payable.

Attachments: [AP Check Report - Warrants 02-25-26 to 03-23-26](#)

Peter Danao presented a request to approve accounts and warrants drawn according to Schedule(s) of Bills Payable February 25, 2026-March 23, 2026.

A motion was made by Commissioner Langford, seconded by Commissioner

Schaefer, to approve the accounts and warrants drawn.. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Deriso, Schaefer, Langford, and Gross

Recused: Hickox

19. Resolution/Budget Amendment Fiscal Year 2025/2026

Attachments: [Resolution Summary and Narrative](#)
[2026-68 Public Safety R&M Ins](#)
[2026-69 Economic Dev-Turner Center](#)
[2026-71 SHIP](#)
[2026-73 Public Safety](#)
[2026-75 ARPA-General Fund COC](#)

Mandy Hines presented a requested to adopt a Resolution relating to the budget amendments affecting the 2025/2026 adopted budget as provided in Budget Amendments 2026-68, 2026-69, 2026-71, 2026-73, 2026-75.

A motion was made by Commissioner Schaefer, seconded by Commissioner Gross, to adopt this Resolution. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Deriso, Schaefer, Hickox, Langford, and Gross

Enactment No: 2026-031

20. Weiler Work Authorization 25/26-07- CR769 Force Main Replacement

Attachments: [WORK AUTHORIZATION FORM weiler 25-26-07 CR769 FORCE MAIN REPLACEMENT WA_CR769ForceMainReplacement](#)

Greg Harris, Utilities Director presented a request to approve Weiler Work Authorization 25/26-07 authorizing the permitting, design and CEI for the CR769 Forcemain Replacement project.

A motion was made by Commissioner Langford, seconded by Commissioner Schaefer, to approve Weiler Work Authorization 25/26-07. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Deriso, Schaefer, Hickox, Langford, and Gross

21. Resolution/ Burn Ban/ Drought Emergency Expires

Attachments: [Resolution ending Burn Ban 4-14-2026](#)

Mandy Hines, County Administrator, presented a request that the Board adopt a resolution declaring the Burn Ban/Drought Emergency expired. The Board engaged in extensive discussion about current drought conditions and potential amendments to the existing ordinance, including the possibility of granting the Fire Chief authority to issue fines for violations and refer offenders to the Special Magistrate, thereby reducing the burden on law enforcement. After deliberation, the Board chose to extend the burn ban and revisit the issue in the coming weeks.

A motion was made by Commissioner Schaefer, seconded by Commissioner Langford, that this Resolution be denied. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Deriso, Schaefer, Hickox, Langford, and Gross

**22. Resolution / Coward vacation of ROW (correction of legal description)
(VAC-0018-2024)**

Attachments: [Resolution VAC-0018-2024 Coward appr vac - Corrected Exhibit A - Corrected Legal and Survey Recorded Resolution 2024-108 Coward VAC of ROW](#)

Valerie Vincente, County Attorney presented a request to adopt the resolution correcting an error that was discovered on the legal description recorded with resolution 2024-108 for the vacation of right-of-way.

A motion was made by Commissioner Langford, seconded by Commissioner Schaefer, that this Resolution be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Deriso, Schaefer, Hickox, Langford, and Gross

Enactment No: 2026-032

23. Resolution to amend the Planning and Zoning Division fee schedule (Tabled from 3/24/26)

Attachments: [Resolution with Exhibit A Fee Comparison 11x17 PZ Div Fee Schedule MARKUP 032426v3](#)

John Osborne brought back a motion that was tabled on March 24, 2026 for reconsideration to adopt the proposed resolution amending the Planning and Zoning Division fee schedule.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gross, seconded by Commissioner Langford, to adopt the Resolution. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Schaefer, Hickox, Langford, and Gross

Nay: Deriso

Enactment No: 2026-033

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mandy Hines provided a brief update on the Hope Desoto Building and requested guidance from the Board regarding allocation of available funding. She also reported on a County-owned property that has been fully refurbished following significant code enforcement action and is now ready to be listed for sale. She also gave a brief update on the progress of the wastewater treatment expansion. Additionally, she reminded the Board of the scheduled budget workshop dates.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Commissioners expressed their appreciation to County staff, volunteers, and community members for their ongoing contributions to DeSoto County. They extended their gratitude for the success of the 22nd Annual Pioneer Day, noting that the event continues to serve as a meaningful opportunity to engage with residents and celebrate the County's rich history. Commissioners also thanked local firefighters for their dedicated efforts during the current period of drought and heightened wildfire risk. The Board raised concerns regarding persistent issues at the mulching facility on Highway 72. Despite previous discussions and enforcement actions, the County continues to receive complaints related to weekend truck traffic and the

deteriorating condition of Thigpen Road, which serves as the primary access route to the facility. Commissioners also discussed ongoing code enforcement challenges involving properties where violations continue despite mediation and prior enforcement measures. Commissioner Gross inquired about potential ways to expedite enforcement once cases have completed the required processes. Ms. Hines explained that when a property has appeared before the Special Magistrate twice without achieving compliance, the County may proceed with the civil citation process. Additionally, the Board reviewed the status of coordination with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) regarding roadway improvements. Staff indicated they would follow up with FDOT to obtain an updated project timeline. Based on prior communication, the anticipated project completion remains scheduled for early 2027.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business before the Board, Chairman Hickox adjourned the meeting at 10:06AM

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA

MANDY HINES
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

STEVE HICKOX
CHAIRMAN

Supplemental Documents BOCC Public Meeting 04-14-2026

Attachments: BOCC Public meeting 04-14-2026 Speaker Cards

NOTE: For quasi-judicial matters, any party desiring a verbatim record of the proceeding of this hearing for the purpose of an appeal is advised to make private arrangements for the production of a record and anyone wishing to present documents or other written evidence to the Board must provide eight (8) copies of the written material . If special accommodations are required in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals should contact the County Administrator's Office by calling 863-993-4800 at least 48 hours prior to the hearing.