



DeSoto County

Board of County Commissioners

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Tuesday, July 8, 2025

9:00 AM

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Commissioner JC Deriso

TURN OFF OR SILENCE ALL CELL PHONES

PRAYER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Reverend Dave Stewart, Lake Suzy Presbyterian Church gave the invocation.

INTRODUCTION OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

SET/AMEND

Commissioner Langford made a motion to set the Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Hickox. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Ashley Brown, Outreach Coordinator for DeSoto County High School, provided the board with an update on the success of the third-grade summer reading program. She noted that the start of the 2025-2026 school year is just one month away and proudly highlighted the improvement in proficiency scores among DeSoto County elementary students. Additionally, she reminded everyone that Open House for the upcoming school year is scheduled for August 7, 2025, and the first day of school for students will be August 11, 2025.

CONSENT AGENDA-MOTION TO APPROVE

Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

Aye: Schaefer, Hickox, Langford, and Gross

Absent: Deriso

1. Resolution - Policy Modification/Indigent Burial

Attachments: [2025-xx Resolution - Adopting Amended Indigent Burial Policy.pdf](#)
[Ex. A - Revised Indigent Burial Policy, Eff. 6.24.25.pdf](#)
[\(For Reference\) Track Changes reflecting Policy Revisions.pdf](#)
Enactment No: 2025-054

2. Letter of Understanding with SouthWest Florida Library Network

Attachments: [Letter of Understanding - SWFLN](#)

3. To approve the 2025/2026 Detailed Work Plan Budget and Integrated Mosquito Management Plan for Mosquito Control

Attachments: [Detailed Work Budget Plan 2025-2026](#)
[Integrated Mosquito Management Plan DeSoto County 2025-2026](#)

4. Next Generation 911 Routing Project/Addendum Two

Attachments: [Region 6 MOU Addendum 2](#)

5. Hazard Mitigation Grant Program- Turner Center Generator

Attachments: [HMGP Application Turner Center Generator](#)

6. Declaration of Surplus Property

Attachments: [Surplus Declared 7-08-25](#)

7. Resolution appointing and reappointing members of the Economic Development Advisory Committee.

Attachments: [EDAC Resolution 2025 Martin](#)

Enactment No: 2025-055

PRESENTATION

8. Jail Study Presentation

Attachments: [DeSoto County Final Executive Summary Report 6-27-2025](#)
[DeSoto County Board of County Commissioners Presentation 6-27-2025](#)
[DeSoto County Final Full Report 6-27-2025 \(1\)](#)
[Jail Study Presentation 7-1-2025 - reduced pages](#)

Joe Mrak, Securitecture, LLC gave a powerpoint presentation with a 20 year plan for the future DeSoto County Jail. He presented a concise report detailing the conceptual design and cost estimate to address current deficiencies and accommodate future needs of the DeSoto County Jail Administrative Complex. He addressed several critical facility deficiencies, including the site being landlocked, which makes future expansion impossible. Additionally, the existing building only partially complies with current code requirements. He emphasized that given the growing population in DeSoto County, a modernized facility is essential to meet future demands. The proposed design includes a housing area capable of accommodating 256 beds, with a layout that allows for efficient supervision. He also highlighted that the new facility will be designed with scalability in mind, allowing for future expansion as needed. He discussed since

the means of financing the project ,and site location as well as material and labor cost are unknown at the time of completion of this report, those cost are not included. Some existing provisions are available for the special vehicle storage and maintenance, this cost is represented separate from the building cost to allow for inclusion or future implementation. With the significant reduction of the building gross square feet achieved during the workshop, the pre-workshop mean total opinion of probable cost of \$108,382,464 was reduced by \$15,722,866 to \$92,669,598. He concluded by commending the project committee for their dedication and valuable input throughout the study process.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gross, seconded by Commissioner Langford, to approve DeSoto County Jail and Administrative Complex Conceptual Design and Cost Estimate Study. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Schaefer, Hickox, Langford, and Gross

Absent: Deriso

REGULAR BUSINESS

9. Resolution/Budget Amendment Fiscal Year 2024/2025

Attachments: [Resolution Summary and Narrative 2025-115 Utilities Capital Water-Wastewater](#)

Brian Wagner presented a request to adopt a Resolution amending and supplementing the budget for the fiscal year 2024/2025. Recognizing Capital Water and Wastewater fees.

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

Aye: Schaefer, Hickox, Langford, and Gross

Absent: Deriso

Enactment No: 2025-056

10. Housing Assistance Plan (HAP)/Amendment

Attachments: [HAP - Updated 2025 Policy for Approval.pdf](#)
[HAP - 2024 Policy with Revisions reflected in Track Changes \(2024-002\).pdf](#)

Laurie Benson presented a request to approve a modification to the Housing Assistance Plan. This gives the guidelines to administer the Community Development block grant.

A motion was made by Commissioner Langford, seconded by Commissioner Schaefer, to approve the Housing Assistance Plan Amendment. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Schaefer, Hickox, Langford, and Gross

Absent: Deriso

11. Bid award/SHIP-HHRP

Attachments: [Ammended Cost Letter - 1460 SW Holiday St.pdf](#)
[Reece Bid.pdf](#)
[Bid opening.pdf](#)
[Walk thru sign in.pdf](#)

Laurie Benson presented a request to approve bid award for one home. R.D. Welch Company was the only bidder after talking through some clarifications of the work write up, Mr. Welch submitted a bid to \$75,839.89. This amount is still over the maximum award amount by \$5,839.89. Ms. Benson stated the overage amount will be cover by half of the funds from SHIP and half of the funds will come from HHRP.

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

Aye: Schaefer, Hickox, Langford, and Gross

Absent: Deriso

12. Tourism Marketing Matching Grant-South Florida Little Britches Rodeo Association

Attachments: [SFlorida Little Britches-BOCC Grant](#)

Sondra Guffey presented a request to approve a tourism marketing matching grant to the South Florida Little Britches Rodeo Association.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gross, seconded by Commissioner Langford, to approved the grant award. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Schaefer, Hickox, Langford, and Gross

Absent: Deriso

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

Attachments: [AP Check Report - Warrants 06-10-25 to 06-23-25](#)

Peter Danao presented a request to approve accounts and warrants drawn according to Schedule(s) of Bills Payable April 8, 2025-April 21, 2025.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gross, seconded by Commissioner Langford, to approved the accounts and warrants drawn . The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Schaefer, Langford, and Gross

Absent: Deriso

Recused: Hickox

14. Board approval to mail notice concerning lapsing PUD

Attachments: [07-08-25 - Letter to Power Auto \(final\)](#)

Misty Servia presented a request for approval to mail notice concerning lapsing PUD. As of the date of this agenda item, no significant construction has occurred County staff has initially determined that the Concept Development Plan associated with Resolution 2015-41 has lapsed, as no significant construction had occurred within 5 years of the time of the PUD enactment as required. Power Auto has sold portions of the Property to third parties, including Maria's Rentals

LLC, who is now seeking to rezone those parcels that they own. The correspondence will advise Power Auto that the County is in receipt of an application by Maria's Rentals LLC to rezone certain parcels that are contained within the boundaries of the former PUD Property, which rezoning the Board will consider at a future hearing date to be determined, but no sooner than 60 days from the date of this correspondence. The correspondence will further advise that the County may initiate rezonings of other parcels within said area in the future.

A motion was made by Commissioner Langford, seconded by Commissioner Schaefer, to approve the correspondence. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Schaefer, Hickox, Langford, and Gross

Absent: Deriso

15. Ordinance/ Emergency Medical Services Tax Assessment

Attachments: [EMS Collection Ordinance draft 6-30-25 final](#)

Mandy Hines presented a request to adopt An Ordinance governing the Emergency Medical Services Tax Assessment and providing for collection of the EMS tax assessment in accordance with the Uniform Assessment Collection Act.

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

Aye: Schaefer, Hickox, Langford, and Gross

Absent: Deriso

Enactment No: 2025-008

16. Ordinance/ Master Service Assessment

Attachments: [Master Service Assessment Ordinance 6-30-25 final](#)

Mandy Hines present a request to adopt the Mater Service Assessment Ordinance. The Ordinance provides updated procedures that will govern the provision of services provided by the imposition and collection of non-ad valorem assessments. The Ordinance will repeal and replace Chapter 10, Article VI of the County Code of Ordinances concerning "Special Assessments (Fire and EMS)" and Chapter 10, Article VI of the Code of Ordinances concerning "Special Assessments (Road and Drainage)".

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

Aye: Schaefer, Hickox, Langford, and Gross

Absent: Deriso

Enactment No: 2025-009

17. Initial Assessment Rate Resolution/Emergency Medical Services

Attachments: [EMS Amended and Restated IAR 6-30-25 final](#)

Mandy Hines presented a request to adopt the Amended and Restated Initial Rate Resolution for the Emergency Medical Services Tax Assessment.

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

Absent: Deriso

Enactment No: 2025-057

18. Initial Assessment Resolution/Fire Protection Services

Attachments: [Amended & Restated IAR 6-30-25 final](#)

Mandy Hines presented a request to adopt the Amended and Restated Initial Assessment Resolution for the Fire Protection Assessment for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2025.

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

Aye: Schaefer, Hickox, Langford, and Gross

Absent: Deriso

Enactment No: 2025-058

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mandy Hines informed the Board that an emergency purchase order was issued to the Road and Bridge department for maintenance of a commercial septic and drainage field. She also requested the Board's direction on implementing admission fees for agricultural events hosted at the Turner Center. While Sondra Guffey is developing a rate schedule, clarification is needed on how and when to apply fees-particularly distinguishing non-profit from for-profit agricultural events. Additional charges to be considered for clean-up services and access to extra amenities. Commissioner Gross inquired whether the proposed fee guidelines should apply exclusively to in-county vendors or extend to out-of-county participants. The Board reached consensus to offer free use of the Turner Center for in-county agricultural events and to establish a designated fee schedule for out-of-county vendors. Ms. Hines further requested authorization to negotiate and finalize offers with property owners related to the CR 769 roadway expansion. She also provided comments on the professionalism, and quality of service consistently demonstrated by County staff.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

None

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

The commissioners expressed appreciation for a successful Independence Day celebration, highlighted the parade and beautiful weather. Commissioner Langford shared his personal excitement of becoming a grandfather on the holiday. They also congratulated our local youth AAA All-Stars baseball team for clinching the state championship title and extended their best wishes as the team advances to compete in the Youth World Series games. Additionally, the commissioners thanked staff for their continued dedication and encouraged everyone to keep the state of Texas in their thoughts and prayers as recovery efforts continue following the tragic events over the holiday weekend.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business before the Board, Chairman Deriso adjourned the meeting at 10:13pm

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA

MANDY HINES
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

STEVE HICKOX
VICE CHAIRMAN

Board Documents 07-08-2025 BOCC Public Meeting

Attachments: Speaker card

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.