



DeSoto County

Board of County Commissioners

Meeting Minutes - Final

Tuesday, July 22, 2025

3:00 PM

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

Pastor David Stewart , First Presbyterian Church of Lake Suzy gave the invocation.

INTRODUCTION OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

Sheriff Potter of the Desoto County Sheriffs office was present.

SET/AMEND

A motion was made by Commissioner Gross, seconded by Commissioner Langford to set the agenda.

PUBLIC FORUM FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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: Deriso, Schaefer, Hickox, Langford, and Gross

1. Minutes/BOCC Public Meeting 05-27-2025 and 06-10-2025

Attachments: [05-27-2025 BOCC Meeting](#)
[06-10-2025 BOCC Meeting](#)

2. Agreement/Community Development Block Grant

Attachments: [H2606 Agreement DSR.docx.pdf](#)
[Award letter.pdf](#)

3. Reaffirm Memorandum of Understanding between the County and the

University of Florida Board of Trustees relating to funding to cover staffing costs of IFAS County Extension Services

Attachments: [FY26 DeSoto County Budget Release Letter](#)
[DeSoto FY26 Exhibit A 4-2-25](#)

4. FY 24 JAG-C Grant

Attachments: [JAG C reso - clean](#)
[Lobbying-Debarment-and-Drug-Free-Certification_ Revised-04-05-to go with JAG Grant Applications](#)
[JAG-C Application 7-2025 DRAFT](#)
Enactment No: 2025-059

5. FY 24 JAG-D Grant

Attachments: [JAG D reso - clean 7-22-2025](#)
[Lobbying-Debarment-and-Drug-Free-Certification_ Revised-04-05-to go with JAG Grant Applications](#)
[JAG-D Application 7-2025 DRAFT](#)
Enactment No: 2025-060

6. Approval of Holiday Schedule 2026.

Attachments: [Holiday Schedule 2026](#)

7. Grant Agreement between the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) and the DeSoto County Board of Commissioners

Attachments: [LESA Grant Award - 7-2025](#)

REGULAR BUSINESS

8. Proclamation/2025 Diamond Youth Baseball AAA State Champions

Attachments: [2025 DYB State Champions](#)

Mandy Hines read the Proclamation into record to proclaim and acknowledge the achievements of the 2025 Diamond Youth Baseball AAA Division 1 as State Champions.

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

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

9. Proclamation/ Pretrial Service and State and County Probation Supervision Week

Attachments: [County Pretrial State and County Probation Supervision Week from Orta 7-2025](#)

Mandy Hines read the Proclamation into record to proclaim the week of July 20-26, 2025 as Pretrial Service and State and County Probation Supervision Week.

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

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

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

Attachments: [AP Check Report - Warrants 06-24-25 to 07-07-25](#)

Peter Danao presented a request to approve accounts and warrants drawn according to Schedule(s) of Bills Payable June 24, 2025-July 07, 2025.

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

Aye: Deriso, Schaefer, Langford, and Gross

Recused: Hickox

11. Resolution/Budget Amendment Fiscal Year 2024/2025

Attachments: [Resolution Summary and Narrative 2025-121 Sheriff](#)
[2025-123 Library](#)
[2025-124 Opioid Settlement](#)

Brian Wagner presented a request to adopt a Resolution relating to budget amendments 2025-121, 2025-123 and 2025-124 affecting the FY 2024/2025 adopted budget.

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

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

Enactment No: 2025-061

12. Resolution authorizing and directing County staff to administratively approve plats and replats

Attachments: [Resolution - Designating Authority for Admin Plat Approval Chapter 2025-164](#)

Valerie Vicente presented a request to adopt a resolution giving administrative authority to the county administrator, to receive, review, and process plat or replat submittals; if a submittal meets all legal requirements, it can be approved or denied without further action from the governing body. Ms. Vicente stated this act was approved by the Governor June 20, 2025, and took effect July 1, 2025. Commissioner Langford stated that he feels this undermines the authority of elected officials to govern the county, which he believes is precisely what voters elected them to do. Commissioner Deriso expressed his concern with this process, stating the Commissioners would not be aware of any plats and replats, which would make it difficult to address constituents' concerns, he questioned if there was a way to update the board when these approvals are made. Mandy Hines stated she and Misty Servia are working on updating the county website to list all properties that have submitted applications for plats and replats in the order of submittal. She is also working on a summary report for the board of the several legislative bills that will impact county department and functions.

A motion was made by Commissioner Schaefer, seconded by Commissioner Hickox,

to adopt the Resolution. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Deriso, Schaefer, and Hickox

Nay: Langford, and Gross

Enactment No: 2025-062

13. State Legislative Priorities / Annual Adoption

Attachments: [Local Legislative Priorities](#)

Mandy Hines presented a request to approve (or amend) Legislative Priority general policy statement and project requests. Each year the Board adopts annual legislative priorities with general policy statements and project funding requests. The priorities are presented at the annual local Delegation Meeting which will be held August 11, 2025. Adoption of priorities does not limit the County in taking positions in favor, or opposition, to legislation that is filed throughout the process. There was discussion on each priority item and the amounts that will be requested for funding. Commissioner Gross emphasized the importance of securing the proper funding for the expansion of County Road 769. Further discussion took place regarding amending the proposed funding amounts, with the intent of positioning the county to potentially receive sufficient support for its prioritized legislative Project Request.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gross, seconded by Commissioner Langford, to approve the State Legislative Priorities 2025/2026 . The motion carried by the following vote:

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

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Many Hines notified the board that she along with Chief Chad Jorgensen and Cindy Talamantz have located an ambulance from Manatee County to purchase that fits within budget as a back-up vehicle. There was conversation as to how quickly we can get the unit ready for use, to fill the reserve. She also gave recognition to Peter Danao for his hard work and time spent to complete a significant DODGE report. She also acknowledged Cindy Talamantz for her meticulous attention to detail in overseeing the County's ongoing construction projects.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Valerie Vincent, County Attorney had no report. She was asked by Commissioner Gross where the county's two pending litigations stood, she advised as of the current moment there no word from the courts, all cases are still pending.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

The Commissioners thanked the staff for all their hard work. They spoke on the improvements to the intersection of US 17 and CR 761. The Commissioners also wished the 2025 Diamond Youth Baseball AAA Division 1 State Champions the best of luck at the Little League World Series.

RECESS UNTIL 6:30 PM PUBLIC HEARING

QUASI-JUDICIAL PUBLIC HEARING

Valerie Vicente County Attorney explained county procedures for Quasi-Judicial and Ex Parte

Communication. Commissioners all then gave a brief list of constituents they have had correspondence with via phone, e-mail or in person as well and time and dates of any site visits.

14. Resolution / PRMWSA Development Plan / SITE-0160-2025

Attachments: [2025-06-24 SITE 0160-2025 PRMWSA DP SR with mms edits \(ca\)](#)
[Clean](#)
[2025-07-01 SITE-0160-2025 DP Resolution with mms edits \(cao\)](#)
[Clean](#)
[Location Map](#)
[FLUM](#)
[Zoning Map](#)
[PRMWSA Site Plan](#)
[PRMWSA Site Plan C-101-Plot](#)

Misty Servia presented a request to adopt a Resolution for the Board to consider the proposed utility expansion be considered an Essential Service and approval of a Development Plan to expand an existing potable water treatment facility, a new reservoir, and associated infrastructure on 34 parcels. Ms. Servia reviewed the details of the development plan as well as the conditions for approval. The applicants Engineer Trish Howard of Shade Services Inc. was present. Constituent Theresa Collins-Hill spoke in opposition to the proposed expansion. Additional dialogue ensued. Commissioner Schaefer made a motion to close the public meeting seconded by Commissioner Gross.

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

Aye: Deriso, Schaefer, Hickox, Langford, and Gross
Enactment No: 2025-063

15. Resolution / Cayman Lakes Phase 2 Improvement Plan / SITE-0135-2024

Attachments: [2025-07-09 SITE-0135-2024 Cayman Lakes Phase II SR for PC](#)
[Exhibit E - NTP, Phase I](#)
[Resolution Cayman Lakes Phase 2](#)
[Location Map Cayman Lakes](#)
[Zoning Map Cayman Lakes](#)
[FLUM Cayman Lakes](#)
[Site Plan Cayman Lakes Phase II](#)

Misty Servia presented a request to adopt/deny the proposed resolution for the improvement plan for the Cayman Lakes Phase 2 PUD. She talked more about the history of the application, she reviewed the details of the improvement plan. There was further conversation about land use, lot sizes, water supply and other project details, as well as conditions. The applicants Engineer Tod Rebol of Atwell group was present, to answer any questions. There were several members of the community that voiced their concerns with the traffic impacts, flooding issues that may arise during and after construction of an other large development along the Kings Highway corridor. A motion was made by Commissioner Gross to close the public meeting seconded by Commissioner Langford. There was further deliberation by the Board.

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

Aye: Deriso, Schaefer, Hickox, Langford, and Gross
Enactment No: 2025-064

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business before the Board, Chairman Deriso adjourned the meeting at 7:35 pm

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA

MANDY HINES
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

J.C. DERISO
CHAIRMAN

Board Documents 07-22-2025 BOCC Public Meeting

Attachments: BOCC Meeting 07-22-25 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.