



DeSoto County

Board of County Commissioners

Meeting Minutes - Final

Tuesday, October 14, 2025

9:00 AM

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Commissioner Steven Hickox

TURN OFF OR SILENCE ALL CELL PHONES

PRAYER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pastor David Stewart of Grace Presbyterian Church gave the invocation.

INTRODUCTION OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

Debbie Wertz, Supervisor Of Elections was present.

SET/AMEND

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

Aye: Deriso, Schaefer, Langford, and Gross

Absent: Hickox

PUBLIC FORUM FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA-MOTION TO APPROVE

Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

Aye: Deriso, Schaefer, Langford, and Gross

Absent: Hickox

1. Agreement Renewal/AC Disaster Consulting, LLC.

Attachments: [23-03-00RFP Agreement Amendment #1](#)

2. State Aid to Libraries Grant

Attachments: [State Aid to Libraries Grant](#)

3. Purchase/ GameTime Playground

Attachments: GameTime Purchase Agreement and Quote

4. FDACS - State Financial Assistance Recipient Agreement

Attachments: [32949 Desoto County BOCC](#)

5. Minutes/BOCC Public Meeting 09-08-2025 & 09-09-2025

Attachments: [09-08-2025 BOCC Meeting Tentative Budget Hearing](#)
[09-09-2025 BOCC Meeting](#)

6. Emergency Preparedness and Assistance Grant (EMPA)

Attachments: [Desoto County FY25 A0555 Agreement](#)

7. Purchase of Ford F250 Crew Cab Pickup

Attachments: [Ford F250 Crew Cab Quote.pdf](#)

8. Purchase of Ford F250 Utility Truck

Attachments: [Utility Truck Quote.pdf](#)

9. Resolution/Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR)

Attachments: [HI026 Ready for Signature](#)
[Enabling Resolution for CDBG-DR Hazard Mitigation](#)
Enactment No: 2025-092

10. Opioid Settlement Participation

Attachments: [Opioid Settlement - Secondary Manufacturers](#)

REGULAR BUSINESS

11. Proclamation/National Safe Sleep Awareness Month

Attachments: [Safe Sleep Awareness Month 2025](#)

Mandy Hines read the Proclamation into record to proclaim the month of October " Safe Sleep Awareness Month"

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

Aye: Deriso, Schaefer, Langford, and Gross

Absent: Hickox

12. Proclamation/Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Attachments: [Domestic Violence Awareness Month Oct 2025](#)

Mandy Hines read the Proclamation into record to proclaim the month of October as " Domestic Violence Awareness Month" Representatives of SAFE

PLACE AND RAPE CRISIS CENTER, INC. (SPARCC) accepted the Proclamation.

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

Aye: Deriso, Schaefer, Langford, and Gross

Absent: Hickox

13. Contract Award / Weiler Engineering Corporation / Engineer of Record

Attachments: [25-20-00RFQ CONTRACT](#)
 [Copy of WECDDeSotoRateComparison](#)

Cindy Talamantez made a request to approve the Contract with Weiler Engineering Corporation for Engineer of Record Services.

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

Aye: Deriso, Schaefer, Langford, and Gross

Absent: Hickox

14. Weiler Work Authorization 25/26-03 General Engineering Services

Attachments: [WORK AUTHORIZATION FORM weiler 25-26-03 GENERAL ENGINEERING](#)

Cindy Talamantez made a request to approve Weiler Work Authorization 25/26-03 for General Engineering Services.

A motion was made by Commissioner Langford, seconded by Commissioner Gross, to approve this Change Order. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Deriso, Schaefer, Langford, and Gross

Absent: Hickox

15. Weiler Work Authorization 25/26-04- General DCU

Attachments: [WORK AUTHORIZATION FORM weiler 25-26-04 GENERAL ENGINEERING UTILITIES](#)

Cindy Talamantez made a request to approve Weiler Work Authorization 25/26-04 for General Engineering for Utilities.

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

Aye: Deriso, Schaefer, Langford, and Gross

Absent: Hickox

16. Resolution/Budget Amendment Fiscal Year 2024/2025

Attachments: [Resolution](#)
 [Summary and Narrative](#)
 [2025-153 Supervisor of Elections](#)
 [2025-160 Budget Carryovers 10-14-2025](#)
 [2025-161 Sheriff Article V \(Q4\)](#)

Brian Wagner made a request to adopt Resolution relating to budget amendments

2025-153, 2025-160 and 2025-161 affecting the 2024/2025 adopted budget.

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

Aye: Deriso, Schaefer, Langford, and Gross

Absent: Hickox

Enactment No: 2025-093

17. Resolution/Budget Amendment Fiscal Year 2025/2026

Attachments: [Resolution](#)
 [Summary and Narrative](#)
 [2026-1 Budget Carryovers 10-14-2025](#)
 [2026-2 Hurricane Ian](#)
 [2026-3 Utilities Capital Wastewater](#)
 [2026-4 Public Safety](#)

Brian Wagner made a request to adopt a Resolution relating to budget amendments 2026-1, 2026-2, 2026-3 and 2026-4 affecting the 2025/2026 adopted budget.

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

Aye: Deriso, Schaefer, Langford, and Gross

Absent: Hickox

Enactment No: 2025-094

18. Bid Awards/SHIP and HHRP

Attachments: [Bid log in.pdf](#)
 [11325 SW Essex Dr.pdf](#)
 [1315 SE Third Ave.pdf](#)
 [1192 SW Rainbow Ave.pdf](#)
 [310 W Myrtle St.pdf](#)
 [Notice to Bidders - 09-12-2025.pdf](#)

Lori Benson requested approval of bid awards, with staff recommending RD Welch Co for three projects and White Sands Construction for the 3315 SE Third Ave bid.

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

Aye: Deriso, Schaefer, Langford, and Gross

Absent: Hickox

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

Attachments: [AP Check Report - Warrants 09-09-25 to 09-22-25](#)

Peter Danao made a request to approve the accounts and warrants drawn according to Schedule(s) of Bills Payable September 9, 2025-September 22, 2025.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gross, seconded by Commissioner Schaefer, to

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

Aye: Deriso, Schaefer, Langford, and Gross

Absent: Hickox

20. Acceptance of Permanent Utilities Easement for Giuseppe's Brooklyn Oven

Attachments: [Hwy17ArcadiaLLC-PermanentUtilitiesEasement](#)

Michael Giardullo presented a request to accept the Permanent Utilities Easement granted by Hwy 17 Arcadia LLC for the County's roadside stormwater system constructed within private property.

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

Aye: Deriso, Schaefer, Langford, and Gross

Absent: Hickox

21. Resolution / Agreement / FDOT SCOP NE Bishop Street Road Improvements

Attachments: [448768-1-54-01 Resolution](#)
[448768-1 Draft State Funded Grant Agreement - approved](#)

Michael Giardullo presented a request to adopt the resolution acknowledging and accepting FDOT SCOP Agreement FP# 448768-1-54-01 for NE Bishop Street.

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

Aye: Deriso, Schaefer, Langford, and Gross

Absent: Hickox

Enactment No: 2025-095

22. Resolution / Agreement / FDOT SCRAP NW Lily Avenue Road Improvements

Attachments: [448765-1-54-01 Resolution](#)
[448765-1 Draft State Funded Grant Agreement- approved](#)

Michael Giardullo presented a request to adopt the resolution acknowledging and accepting FDOT SCOP Agreement FP# 448765-1-54-01 for NW Lily Avenue.

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

Aye: Deriso, Schaefer, Langford, and Gross

Absent: Hickox

Enactment No: 2025-096

23. Applicant's request to reschedule the public hearing on the PUD Rezoning for Liverpool (RZNE-0061-2024)

Attachments: [Ltr 10-2-2025 Vicente RE Extension Request \(Liverpool\)](#)

Valerie Vincente presented a request for approval from the applicant that the public hearing on the PUD Rezoning for Liverpool from the October 28, 2025, BOCC public meeting be continued to the May 2026 BOCC public meeting, the applicant is asking for the six-month continuance to ensure that they have

definitive answers to the issues raised at the hearing held on September 23, 2025.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gross, seconded by Commissioner Schaefer, to approved the rescheduling for PUD rezoning. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Deriso, Schaefer, Langford, and Gross

Absent: Hickox

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

County Administrator Mandy Hines read a letter from the 12th Circuit Court regarding the recent renovations to the third-floor courtroom. The Court expressed its appreciation for the exceptional work completed by Semco, noting that the renovation process was handled with professionalism and that the final result exceeded expectations. The letter also included a proposal to dedicate the newly renovated courtroom in honor of Judge Paker.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

The county attorney, Valerie Vicente reported that in the Giuseppe's litigation, three of the four corporate entities have been officially served, with one entity and Mr. Grossman still pending service. The served parties must respond by October 21 under Florida civil procedure rules. Once responses are received, the county can move forward with scheduling a court hearing. She also noted that Giuseppe's remains open despite the lawsuit, but further action depends on the court's schedule. Valerie additionally updated the board on attending the FLUEDRA mediation regarding the VCH, Osceola Organics matter. She plans to brief commissioners individually on the results and present a formal settlement proposal at the October 28, 2025 meeting.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

The Board of County Commissioners expressed their appreciation to staff for their continued dedication and hard work. Commissioner Langford shared his positive impressions following a visit to the renovated Mills Building, noting its quality and commending the Road and Bridge Department for the exceptional landscaping. Commissioner Deriso also recognized the Road and Bridge staff for their diligent efforts in maintaining the county's roadways, ensuring they remain well-mowed and clear.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business before the Board, Chairman Deriso adjourned the meeting at 9:28am.

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA

MANDY HINES
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

J.C. DERISO
CHAIRMAN

SUPPLEMENTAL BOARD DOCUMENTS

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.