



JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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July 29, 2026

Jackson County BOCC Regular Meeting Highlights

Jackson County, FL. – On July 28, 2026, at 6:00 PM, the Jackson County Board of County Commissioners held a Regular Meeting. This is a recap of some of the reports and requests included in that meeting.

PRESENTATION: L & K Contractors Update on Blue Springs Sewer Project

Chris Kirkland of L & K Contractors provided the Board with a progress update on the Blue Springs Sewer Project, outlining the status of ongoing construction and anticipated project milestones. Mr. Kirkland reported that the project is expected to reach substantial completion by August 11, 2026, with final completion anticipated by October 30, 2026. He also stated that by the substantial completion date, the contractor expects to have resolved the project's major roadway condition and water intrusion issues and committed to resurfacing the entire Phase I section of roadway as part of the project's completion.

During discussion, L & K Contractors also committed to providing daily progress updates to County staff and attending future Board meetings until the project is complete. Commissioners emphasized the importance of meeting the August 11 milestone, and the County Attorney advised that if the County determines the project has not achieved substantial completion by that date, the County will contact the contractor's surety regarding the performance bond.



INNOVATIVE FACILITIES
& INFRASTRUCTURE



HEALTHY & SAFE
COMMUNITY

REQUEST: Board adoption of Resolution for Sale of Market Building Property

The Board adopted a resolution authorizing the sale of the surplus Market Building property at the Endeavor campus, completing the final legal step required to close the previously approved purchase and sale agreement. The property, which the Board previously determined is no longer needed for County purposes, will return to private ownership for redevelopment, supporting continued investment and future economic activity within Jackson County.



VIBRANT &
GROWING ECONOMY

CONTINUED

REQUEST: Value Adjustment Board Appointments

The Board completed its annual appointments for the 2026 Value Adjustment Board (VAB), appointing Commissioners Donnie Branch and Edward Crutchfield to serve as the Board of County Commissioners' representatives. The Board also appointed Kimberly Walters as the citizen member representing homestead property owners, Steve Miller as an alternate citizen member, and approved Martha Eskuchen to continue serving as Special Counsel. These appointments ensure the Value Adjustment Board is fully staffed and prepared to fairly and efficiently hear property assessment appeals during the 2026 VAB meeting schedule in October.



REQUEST: Recommendation of Award for 2526-19 Land Surveying Services

The Board approved the selection of Snelgrove Surveying & Mapping and Southeastern Surveying & Mapping Corporation as the highest-ranked firms to provide on-call land surveying services for Jackson County. In accordance with Florida's Consultants' Competitive Negotiation Act (CCNA), professional services are awarded based on qualifications rather than price, with contract negotiations conducted after the selection of the highest-ranked firms. This process helps ensure the County secures qualified surveying expertise while remaining compliant with state procurement requirements.



REQUEST: Recommendation of Award for 2526-21 Disaster Recovery Consultant

The Board selected DHM Melvin Engineering to enter into contract negotiations for disaster recovery consulting services to support Jackson County's emergency preparedness and recovery efforts. The consultant will assist the County in navigating federal and state disaster recovery programs, maximizing eligible reimbursement opportunities, and providing technical expertise to help facilitate efficient recovery following future declared disasters.



REQUEST: Approval of HMGP Grant Agreement for Public Works Hardening

The Board approved a Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) agreement to strengthen the County's Public Works Facility against future storms. The project will replace the facility's roof with a new code-compliant, wind-resistant roof, upgrade windows, doors, and other openings with hurricane-rated protection, and install a permanent backup generator to help ensure critical operations can continue during and after severe weather. The project is funded through a 75% federal grant, with the County providing the required local match, representing a continued investment in protecting essential public infrastructure and strengthening disaster resilience.



REQUEST: Approval of FDLE Law Enforcement Salary Assistance Grant for the Correctional Facility

The Board approved a Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) Law Enforcement Salary Assistance Grant. The funding will be used to increase the annual base salaries of correctional officers at the county jail, helping the County recruit and retain qualified staff while supporting the continued delivery of essential correctional services. The grant period runs from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, with the funding dedicated to salary assistance for correctional personnel in fiscally constrained counties.



REQUEST: Approval of Resolution and Sale of Former Jackson Alternative School

The Board approved a resolution authorizing the private sale of the former Jackson Alternative School property at 3390 Penn Avenue in Marianna for \$500,000. The purchaser proposes to redevelop the surplus property into a daycare facility. The sale includes the main building, warehouse, pavilion, and designated parking areas and remains contingent upon financing and the buyer obtaining the necessary development approvals from the City of Marianna.



REQUEST: Approval of Indian Springs Phase 2B Closeout Documents

The Board approved the final closeout documents for the Indian Springs Sewer Phase 2B project. As part of the closeout, the Board approved a final change order reducing the contract amount by approximately \$337,600 due to unused contingency funds, resulting in cost savings for the project. The change order also extended the contract time to account for weather delays and holidays, and the project was officially certified as complete on July 28, 2026.



REQUEST: Approval to Set Tentative Millage Rate and First Budget Public Hearing

The Board approved to set the proposed tentative millage rate of 7.9450, maintaining the County's current millage rate for the upcoming fiscal year, and set the First Budget Public Hearing for Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Commission Board Room. Although the millage rate remains unchanged, increases in property values require the proposed rate to be advertised as a tax increase under Florida law. The Board followed the recommended motions presented by staff to establish the tentative millage rate and schedule the first public hearing as part of the County's annual budget adoption process.



LEGEND:



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District 1 Dr. Willie Spires	District 2 Edward Crutchfield	District 3 Paul Donofro Jr.	District 4 Donnie Branch	District 5 Jamey Westbrook
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