



JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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September 10, 2026

Jackson County BOCC Regular Meeting Highlights

Jackson County, FL. – On September 8, 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.

REQUEST: Adoption of Resolutions Adopting Tentative Millage Rate and Tentative Budget for FY 2026-2027

The Board adopted resolutions establishing the County's tentative Fiscal Year 2026-2027 millage rate at 7.9450 mills and approving a tentative budget of \$102,492,012.

The tentative millage rate is 6.12% above the rolled-back rate of 7.4867 mills. These actions represent the next step in the County's annual budget adoption process following a series of budget workshops and establish the tentative funding framework for County operations and services in the upcoming fiscal year. The Board will consider final adoption of the FY 2026-2027 millage rate and budget on September 22, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.



REQUEST: Public Hearings for Graceville Correctional Facility Modification and Anderson Columbia Borrow Pit Expansion

The Board held public hearings and approved General Development Orders for two projects in unincorporated Jackson County, both of which received recommendations for approval from the Jackson County Planning Commission at its August 17, 2026, meeting.

The Board approved the Anderson Columbia Borrow Pit Expansion, allowing the existing borrow pit, formerly known as Baxter's Borrow Pit, to expand excavation by an additional 77.5 acres within the 147-acre parcel. The expansion will bring the total pre- and post-excavation area to approximately 107 acres. The property is located on the west side of Pittman Hill Road, approximately 1.57 miles south of McCormick Road.

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The Board also approved a site plan modification for the Graceville Correctional Facility, located at 5168 Ezell Road. The modification allows for the addition of three recreation yards with canopies, associated utilities, and walking paths, totaling approximately 35,000 square feet of new impervious surface.



REQUEST: Set Public Hearing for First Reading and Approval of Changes to County Ordinance Chapter 2 Administration

The Board approved setting a public hearing for September 22, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. to consider the first reading and approval of proposed updates to Chapter 2, Article III, Division 2 of the Jackson County Code of Ordinances, which governs County procurement. The proposed ordinance would replace the County's purchasing ordinance originally adopted in 1989 with an updated Procurement Ordinance designed to reflect current laws and County practices.

The update would establish the overall legal framework for County purchasing while allowing detailed procedures and dollar thresholds to be maintained in the County's Purchasing Policy and adjusted by the Board at a public meeting as needed. The proposed ordinance also addresses areas not fully covered by the existing code, including competitive proposals, emergency and cooperative purchasing, bid and proposal protests, ethics and conflict-of-interest standards, and federal procurement requirements for purchases involving federal funding.



REQUEST: Review and Acceptance of MOU with Endeavor Forward

The Board reviewed and accepted a Memorandum of Understanding with Endeavor Forward, Inc. that recognizes the longstanding partnership between the two organizations and establishes a 24-month roadmap toward greater operational independence for Endeavor Forward. The phased transition will address areas such as information technology, personnel, human resources, payroll, vendor contracts, maintenance and other operational services while minimizing disruptions for employees, program participants and their families.

The agreement preserves continued collaboration between the County and Endeavor Forward, including opportunities involving facilities, grants and community initiatives. It also affirms the shared commitment to protecting the valuable programs Endeavor Forward provides while clearly defining each organization's responsibilities and reducing shared liability.



REQUEST: Ratification of State Lobby Services Agreement with Alan Suskey

The Board ratified the State Lobbying Services Agreement with Alan Suskey of Shumaker Advisors Florida, LLC, renewing the County's state legislative advocacy services for an additional one-year term through August 31, 2027. This is the first of two renewal options provided under the original agreement.

Through the agreement, Suskey and Shumaker Advisors will continue representing Jackson County before the Florida Legislature and Executive Branch, assisting the County in developing and advancing its legislative priorities, monitoring legislation that may impact Jackson County, and advocating for County interests throughout the state legislative and budget process.



REQUEST: Site Dedication of Howell Landing for FBIP Grant

The Board approved the Site Dedication for Howell Landing as part of the County's participation in the Florida Boating Improvement Program (FBIP). The site has received financial assistance through the Florida Legislature and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to support boating access improvements. As a condition of the program, Howell Landing will be dedicated for public use as a boating access facility for a minimum of 20 years, helping preserve continued public access to Jackson County's waterways.



REQUEST: Approval to Schedule a Special Meeting for the Swearing-In of Commissioners and Board Reorganization on November 17, 2026, at 9:00 AM

The Board approved scheduling a Special Meeting for Tuesday, November 17, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. for the swearing-in of the District 2 Commissioner and reelected District 4 Commissioner. The meeting will also include the Board's organizational proceedings, including the selection of the Chairman and Vice Chairman for the upcoming term.



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LEGEND:



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