REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD, DECEMBER 15, 2015

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Highlands County Board of County Commission Chambers at 600 S. Commerce Ave., Sebring, Florida, with the following members present:

   Commissioner James L. Brooks  
   Commissioner R. Greg Harris  
   Commissioner Jack L. Richie  
   Commissioner William R. Handley  
   Commissioner Don Elwell  

Also present: Randy Vosburg, Assistant County Administrator; J. Ross Macbeth, Board Attorney; Jerome Kaszubowski, Clerk of Courts Business Services Director; Pamela Gamez and Maria Brenes, Deputy Clerks.

2. INVOCATION: Invocation given by Pastor George Miller of the Emmanuel United Church of Christ.

The meeting opened with a prayer by Pastor George Miller, with the Emmanuel United Church of Christ.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Elwell.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS, June Fisher, County Administrator:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec 15</td>
<td>2:30 pm</td>
<td>Highlands Soil &amp; Water Conservation District</td>
<td>Room #3, Bert J. Harris, Jr. Agricultural Center, 4509 George Blvd., Sebring, FL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 15</td>
<td>3:00 pm</td>
<td>Evaluation Committee for RFP 16-020 Insurance Agent of Record</td>
<td>Engineering Conference Room, 505 S. Commerce Ave., Sebring, FL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 17</td>
<td>8:15 am</td>
<td>Highlands County Tourist Development Council Regular meeting</td>
<td>Highlands County Multi Sports Complex, 216 Sheriff’s Tower Road, Sebring, FL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 17</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Highlands County Housing Authority Board meeting</td>
<td>2300 Hope Circle, Sebring, FL</td>
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December 24 and 25, 2015 County offices will be closed in observance of the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Holiday
January 1, 2016 County offices will be closed in observance of the New Year’s Day Holiday

A. Other meetings:

Mr. Vosburg announced that with the offices being closed in observance of the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day holidays, garbage collection for the unincorporated area will occur on Saturday, December 26, 2015. Also, with the observance of the New Year holiday, garbage collection for the unincorporated area will occur on Saturday, January 2, 2016.

The Tourist Development Council Sub-Committee will meet today at 2:00 p.m. in the Tourist Development Council Boardroom at 501 S. Commerce Avenue, Sebring, Florida.

1. Commissioners:

The Heartland Regional Transportation Planning Organization will meet tomorrow in the Commission boardroom at 10:00 a.m.

The Industrial Development Authority/Economic Development Commission will meet tomorrow at the Avon Park Chamber of Commerce at 8:30 a.m.

2. Public:

The Highlands Tea Party will meet tonight at Homer's Restaurant at 6:00 p.m. Guest speaker will be Raymond McIntyre, Highlands County Property Appraiser.
5. **CLERK OF COURTS - Robert W. Germaine**: No report.

6. **CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS – ANNOUNCEMENTS**: No further announcements.

7. **RECOGNITIONS, PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS**:
   
   **A. Vicki Pontius, Leisure Services Director**: Recognition of Ron McClure, Carpentry Supervisor for the Leisure Services Department in honor of his retirement.

   Vicki Pontius, Leisure Services Director, and the Commission came forward to recognize Mr. Ron McClure in honor of his retirement. *See SMB 112 Page 34.*

   **B. Ms. Penny Kocarek, Treasurer of the Highlands County Republican Executive Committee, with Mr. John Cooke**: Request approval of a Proclamation recognizing January 9, 2016 as “First Responder Appreciation Day” in Highlands County.

   Ms. Penny Kocarek, Treasurer of the Highlands County Republican Executive Committee, and Mr. John Cooke, presented the request. Commissioner Elwell read the Proclamation into the record.

   Commissioner Richie made a motion and Commissioner Harris seconded the motion, to move to approve the Proclamation.


8. **CONSENT AGENDA**:

   Commissioner Brooks indicated a minor correction to the December 1, 2015 Board of County Commissioners minutes. The Deputy Clerk acknowledged that she would make that correction.

   Commissioner Handley made a motion and Commissioner Richie seconded the motion, to move to approve the consent agenda with the correction.

   Upon roll call, all Commissioners voted aye. The motion carried.

   **A. Request approval to pay all duly authorized bills and employee benefits December 15, 2015. See Check Report file.**

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<th>Fund</th>
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<td>GENERAL FUND</td>
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<td>HCISSR LTD CAPITAL FUND</td>
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<td>EMPLOYEE BENEFIT FUND</td>
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<tr>
<td>INSURANCE FUND</td>
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B. Request approval of the minutes of the Board of County Commissioners meetings for November 17, and December 1, 2015. See Clerk of Courts website.

C. Request approval of a Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners of Highlands County, Florida requesting that the designation of Rural Area of Opportunity (RAO), formally known as Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC) continue to apply to the South Central Florida region incorporating Desoto, Highlands, Glades, Okeechobee, Hendry, and Hardee Counties (including the Cities, Towns and communities within each), the cities of Belle Glade, Pahokee, and South Bay, and the community of Immokalee; and requesting that all staffing grant funding for Florida’s Heartland REDI, Inc., be continued and expanded; providing for severability; providing for conflict; and providing for an effective date. See Res. Book 27 Page 91 & SMB 112 Page 36.

D. Request approval of Thompson Reuters updated order form for West Complete Library with a fiscal impact of $777.60. See Thompson Reuters file.

E. Request approval of the Commissioner appointments to the Value Adjustment Board, Career Source Board, and the 10 County Coalition for Lake Okeechobee for 2016. See SMB 112 Page 37.

F. Request to waive the Landfill tipping fees for the Lake Placid Arts and Crafts Country Fair Board. See SMB 112 Page 38.

G. Request approval of Amendment 1 to Agreement No. 14099 between the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and Highlands County allowing for a change in the original dock design for Lake Lelia and Dinner Lake from a fixed elevation to a floating dock design to better accommodate the fluctuation of lake levels. See Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission file.

H. Request approval of a two-year Service Agreement with Smiths Detection for Haz-Mat equipment with a fiscal impact of $10,560.00. See Emergency Management file.

I. Request approval of an Interlocal Agreement for recreation with the City of Sebring with a fiscal impact of $110,000.00. See City of Sebring file.

CONSENT AGENDA (2):

A. Request approval to pay all bills with voting conflicts.
Commissioner Elwell declared a conflict of interest due to a payment being made to Alan Jay, his current employer. A Memorandum of Voting Conflict form was submitted to the Clerk to become part of the permanent record.

Commissioner Harris made a motion and Commissioner Handley seconded the motion, to move to request approval to pay all bills with voting conflicts.

Upon roll call, all Commissioners voted aye, except Commissioner Elwell, who abstained. The motion carried. See Check Report file for copy of abstention form.
9. **PUBLIC HEARING:** Martin L. Fitts, Planner 1, and Susan BuChans, Planning Supervisor: Public Hearing to consider transmittal of a Large Scale Comprehensive Plan Land Use Amendment, CPA-15-538LS, amending 35.41 +/- acres from “Public/Quasi-Public Facility and Institutional Lands” to “Agriculture” to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity for expedited State review.

Susan BuChans, Planning Supervisor, and Martin Fitts, Planner 1, presented the request. This public hearing was properly advertised and a Proof of Publication was submitted to the Clerk to become part of the permanent record. Mr. Fitts questioned if any of the Commissioners held ex parte communications with the applicant concerning this hearing. Commissioner Handley stated that he engaged in a telephone conversation with the applicant. All other Commissioners stated no.

Mr. Fitts read the caption of the Ordinance into the record and stated that this is the first reading of the Ordinance. Mr. Fitts also stated that once the reviewing agencies provide comments and those comments get addressed, the Ordinance will come back to the Board for a final adoption hearing.

Commissioner Harris made a motion and Commissioner Richie seconded the motion, to move to approve and adopt by Ordinance, CPA-15-538LS, amending the Future Land Use Map of the Highlands County Comprehensive Plan for approximately 35.41 acres from “Public/Quasi-Public Facility and Institutional Lands” to “Agriculture”, referencing the mandatory findings of fact; and transmitting CPA-15-538LS to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity for expedited state review.

Upon roll call, all Commissioners voted aye. The motion carried. **See Proof of Publication file & SMB 112 Page 39.**

10. **PUBLIC HEARING:** Martin L. Fitts, Planner 1, and Linda Conrad, Zoning Supervisor: Public Hearing to consider P&Z Hearing No. 2019, changing the Official Zoning Atlas for approximately 35.41 acres from “Public and Quasi-Public Lands District” to “Agricultural District”.

Martin Fitts, Planner 1, and Linda Conrad, Zoning Supervisor, presented the request. This public hearing was properly advertised and a Proof of Publication was submitted to the Clerk to become part of the permanent record. Mr. Fitts questioned if any of the Commissioners held ex parte communications with the applicant concerning this hearing. Commissioner Handley stated that he engaged in a telephone conversation with the applicant. All other Commissioners stated no.

Mr. Fitts read the caption of the Resolution into the record. Bert J. Harris, Jr., representing the applicant, addressed the Board.

Commissioner Elwell made a motion and Commissioner Richie seconded the motion, to move to approve and adopt by Resolution P&Z Hearing No. 2019, changing the Official Zoning Atlas for approximately 35.41 acres from PU (Public and Quasi-Public Lands Districts) to AU (Agricultural District), referencing the mandatory findings of fact and becoming effective as provided by law.

Upon roll call, all Commissioners voted aye. The motion carried. **See Zoning Change file & Res. Book 27 Page 92.**

11. **ACTION AGENDA:**

Commissioner Harris made a motion and Commissioner Handley seconded the motion, to move to set the action agenda. Upon roll call, all Commissioners voted aye. The motion carried.
A. Martin L. Fitts, Planner 1: Request approval to appoint the recommended voting members and alternate members of the Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group for calendar year 2016.

Martin Fitts, Planner I, presented the request.

Commissioner Richie made a motion and Commissioner Handley seconded the motion, to move to accept and appoint the recommended voting and alternate voting members to the Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group for calendar year 2016.

Upon roll call, all Commissioners voted aye. The motion carried. See SMB 112 Page 40.

B. Vicki Pontius, Leisure Services Director: Request approval of the Recreation & Parks Advisory Committee's (RPAC's) recommendation for the renovations of basketball courts at Sun 'n Lakes Recreational Complex in Sebring and Budget Amendment 15-16-037 with a fiscal impact of $7,500.00.

Vicki Pontius, Leisure Services Director, presented the request.

Commissioner Harris made a motion and Commissioner Elwell seconded the motion, to move to approve the RPAC recommendation for up to $7,500.00 of infrastructure funds set aside for recreation and Budget Amendment 15-16-037 for the renovations of basketball courts located in the Sun 'n Lakes Recreation Complex in Sebring.

Upon roll call, all Commissioners voted aye. The motion carried. See SMB 112 Page 41.

C. Mary Plankenhorn, Children’s Advocacy Center Manager: Request approval to appoint, at the recommendation of the Children’s Services Council, Carly Wohl, Aisha Alayande, Shirley Johnson and Jeff Taylor to serve as voting members and to appoint Judge Angela Cowden and Dale McQuillin as honorary members of the Children’s Services Council.

Mary Plankenhorn, Children’s Advocacy Center Manager, presented the request. Ms. Shirley Johnson and Mr. Dale McQuillin addressed the Commission.

Commissioner Harris made a motion and Commissioner Richie seconded the motion, to move to accept the recommendations and appoint four (4) regular voting members and two (2) honorary members to the Children’s Services Council.

Upon roll call, all Commissioners voted aye. The motion carried. See SMB 112 Page 42.

D. Christopher Benson, Community Programs Director/Administrative Projects Manager:

1. Presentation of a Bank and homeowner request approval of a reduced payment in satisfaction of their State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) Mortgage with a fiscal impact of $3,000.00.

Chris Benson, Community Programs Director/Administrative Projects Manager, presented the request.

Commissioner Handley made a motion and Commissioner Elwell seconded the motion, to move to accept a reduced payment of $3,000 from the homeowner and authorize the Chairman to sign the necessary documents satisfying the SHIP mortgage.

Upon roll call, all Commissioners voted aye. The motion carried. See SMB 112 Page 43.
2. **Request for adoption of a Resolution approving the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee’s Housing Incentives Review and Recommendations Report and authorize submittal to the Florida Housing Finance Corporation.**

Chris Benson, Community Programs Director/Administrative Projects Manager, presented the request and stated that there was no Resolution to consider. The Commission discussed the issue in great detail. Mr. Benson will address comments and suggestions to the housing committee.

Public input was received from Bill Youngman and Jan Grove.

Commissioner Harris made a motion and Commissioner Handley seconded the motion, to move to approve the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee’s (Committee) Housing Incentives Review and Recommendations report and authorize submittal to the Florida Housing Finance Corporation.

Upon roll call, all Commissioners voted aye. The motion carried. **See Housing file.**

3. **Review and approval of Hospital District Board recommendations for Fiscal Year 15/16 Health Services Grants with a neutral fiscal impact of $360,000.00.**

Chris Benson, Community Programs Director/Administrative Projects Manager, presented the request.

Commissioner Handley made a motion and Commissioner Richie seconded the motion, to move to approve the attached Health Services Grant Agreements.

Upon roll call, all Commissioners voted aye. The motion carried. **See Health Services Grant Agreements file.**

E. **Board Attorney Ross Macbeth:**

1. **Request approval of a Settlement between the City of Punta Gorda, a Florida municipal corporation, Charlotte County, a political subdivision of the State of Florida, Julian Wright, R&D Cattle Ranch, LLC, a Florida limited liability company, Florida Shell & Fill Company, LLC, a Florida limited liability company, and Highlands County, a political subdivision of the State of Florida.**

   Ross Macbeth, Board Attorney, presented the request.

   Commissioner Handley made a motion and Commissioner Richie seconded the motion, to move to approve the settlement agreement between the City of Punta Gorda, Charlotte County, Highlands County, and others in the form provided in the agenda package, and authorize execution of that settlement agreement by the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners and the Clerk of Courts or Deputy Clerk, and transmittal of the signed settlement agreement to Charlotte County.

   Upon roll call, all Commissioners voted aye. The motion carried. **See Settlement Agreements file.**

2. **County Attorney County File Log.**

   Ross Macbeth, Board Attorney, presented the County Attorney’s updated file log. Commissioner Handley questioned the recycling contract. Mr. Macbeth stated that they have a meeting scheduled for next week with Progressive Waste Solutions. **See SMB 112 Page 44.**
F. County Administrator June Fisher:

1. Request approval of Budget Amendment 15-16-035 for additional funding to meet Federal and State requirements regarding required equipment for new ambulances with a fiscal impact of $22,000.00 from Reserve for Contingency.

Randy Vosburg, Assistant County Administrator, presented the request.

Commissioner Harris made a motion and Commissioner Richie seconded the motion, to move to approve funding in the amount of $22,000.00 from Fund 151 – Reserve for Contingency and approval of Budget Amendment 15-16-035, allocating $22,000.00 from Fund 151 – Reserve for Contingency into cost center 5105A, Account 56400Z for Project 15032.

Upon roll call, all Commissioners voted aye. The motion carried. See SMB 112 Page 45.

2. Request approval of Resolution & Budget Amendment 15-16-038 for removal of excess budget due to reclassification of expenses into prior fiscal year with a fiscal impact of $100,536.33 partially to the Reserve for Contingency.

Randy Vosburg, Assistant County Administrator, presented the request.

Commissioner Elwell made a motion and Commissioner Handley seconded the motion, to move to approve Budget Amendment 15-16-038 and Resolution.

Upon roll call, all Commissioners voted aye. The motion carried. See Res. Book 27 Page 93 & SMB 112 Page 46.

3. Request approval of Resolution & Budget Amendment 15-16-040 to roll, adjust and/or close projects with a fiscal impact of $380,152.66.

Randy Vosburg, Assistant County Administrator, presented the request.

Commissioner Handley made a motion and Commissioner Richie seconded the motion, to move to approve Budget Amendment 15-16-040 and Resolution.

Upon roll call, all Commissioners voted aye. The motion carried. See Res. Book 27 Page 94 & SMB 112 Page 47.

4. Pending items/project report.

Randy Vosburg, Assistant County Administrator, presented the County’s updated list of pending items/projects.

Commissioner Handley questioned if the change order listed on item #1 was a plus or negative fiscal impact. Mr. Vosburg stated that he will provide an answer for Commissioner Handley. Tim Mechling, OMB Senior Manager, stated that the project has enough funding to cover the change order.

Commissioner Handley questioned the EMS Station at Florida Hospital. The County Attorney stated that the attorneys representing the hospital were to get some title work done and prepare a deed. Mr. Vosburg stated that staff will continue to contact the hospital’s representatives and help put an urgency on this matter. See SMB 112 Page 48.
12. CITIZENS NOT ON THE AGENDA
No participants.

13. COMMISSIONERS:

- **Commissioner Harris**: Commissioner Harris wished everyone a very Merry Christmas.

- **Commissioner Handley**: Commissioner Handley wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

- **Commissioner Elwell**: Commissioner Elwell congratulated the three municipalities on their successful parades, and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and happy holidays.

- **Commissioner Richie**: Commissioner Richie wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

- **Commissioner Brooks**: Commissioner Brooks stated that the County’s tire buy-back program made the news in an article by the National Association of Counties. Commissioner Brooks stated that he did not make it to the Sebring Christmas Parade, but made it to the Lake Placid Christmas Parade, which had a great crowd.

14. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 10:33 a.m.