



Indian River County, Florida

Indian River County
Administration Complex
1801 27th Street
Vero Beach, Florida 32960
indianriver.gov

Draft Meeting Minutes

Board of County Commissioners

Joseph Flescher, District 2, Chairman

Deryl Loar, District 4, Vice Chairman

Susan Adams, District 1

Joseph H. Earman, District 3

Laura Moss, District 5

John A. Titkanich, Jr., County Administrator

Jennifer W. Shuler, County Attorney

Ryan L. Butler, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller

Tuesday, June 17, 2025

9:00 AM

Commission Chambers

1. CALL TO ORDER

Present: 5 - Chairman Joseph Flescher
Vice Chairman Deryl Loar
Commissioner Susan Adams
Commissioner Joe Earman
Commissioner Laura Moss

2.A. A MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION FOR FIRST RESPONDERS AND MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES

2.B. INVOCATION

Pastor Anthony Onorato, Calvary Chapel of Vero Beach

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Joseph Earman

4. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA / EMERGENCY ITEMS

Chairman Flescher noted that Items 12.B. and 12.C. were Executive Sessions which would be held outside of Chambers, per State Statute. The items would be heard at the end of the regular meeting, after which the Board would reconvene for adjournment.

A motion was made by Commissioner Moss, seconded by Commissioner Adams, to approve the Agenda as amended, noting Shade Meeting Items 12.B. and 12.C. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Flescher, Vice Chairman Loar, Commissioner Adams, Commissioner Earman, and Commissioner Moss

5. PROCLAMATIONS and PRESENTATIONS

5.A. Presentation of Proclamation Honoring Michael R. Church on His Retirement from the Indian River County Board of County Commissioners Department of Utility Services, Water Production

Michael R. Church was joined by his supervisors and colleagues as the Board congratulated him on his ten years as an electrician with the Utility Services Department. Sean Lieske, Utility Services Director, and Rich Meckes, Assistant Director, thanked Mike for his hard work and contributions to the Department as "CEO", Chief Electrical Officer.

Read and Presented by Commissioner Adams

5.B. Presentation of Proclamation Celebrating the Centennial of Indian River County

Chairman Flescher presented the proclamation issued to honor the Centennial of Indian River County's, recognizing its establishment on June 29, 1925, and its historical significance in Florida's agricultural and aviation sectors. Michelle Wagner, Chairperson of Centennial Planning, shared celebratory events which featured a parade, a history fair, and culminated in a special time capsule ceremony on June 30, 2025. The time capsule would be opened in 50 years from the dedication day.

Chairman Flescher shared that he had received a gift of an American flag which had previously flown over the State Capitol building. The Commissioners agreed to publicly display the flag and proclamation following Centennial events. Deputy County Administrator Mike Zito, and County Administrator John Titkanich acknowledged the work Ms. Wagner and staff put into organizing the celebratory events.

Read and Presented by Chairman Flescher

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

6.A. Regular Meeting Minutes of April 22, 2025

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Loar, seconded by Chairman Flescher, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 22, 2025, as written. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Flescher, Vice Chairman Loar, Commissioner Adams, Commissioner Earman, and Commissioner Moss

6.B. Regular Meeting Minutes of May 06, 2025

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Loar, seconded by Commissioner Adams, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 06, 2025, as written. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Flescher, Vice Chairman Loar, Commissioner Adams, Commissioner Earman, and Commissioner Moss

7. INFORMATION ITEMS FROM STAFF OR COMMISSIONERS NOT REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

- 7.A.** Florida Public Service Commission Consummating Order
PSC-2025-0176-PAA-EI

No Action Taken or Required

- 7.B.** SWDD Closures and Collection Service Changes for the 4th of July
Holiday

Jill Brown, Recycling Coordinator, informed County residents there would be no service on Friday, July 4, 2025; the landfill and convenience centers would also be closed Friday. Ms. Brown noted County residents who typically have service on that day will have their garbage and recycling picked up on Saturday, July 5. Chairman Flescher added that the Municipalities may differ.

No Action Taken or Required

8. PUBLIC COMMENT: AGENDA-RELATED MATTERS (EXCEPT FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS)

Barbara Parenti addressed to the Board regarding Item 16.B.2. She reported her community of Harmony Reserve had received new recycling bins that were too large to be stored, and was concerned with safety during storms season. She added the yard waste cans were not needed in her HOA community.

Chairman Flescher advised that the wait time for smaller bins would be sooner than August, and details would be given under Item 16.B.2.

Joi Royce, representing Provence Bay, expressed similar concerns to the size and number of bins being delivered without adequate storage space.

No Action Taken or Required

9. CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Earman, seconded by Commissioner Adams, to approve the Consent Agenda as amended, pulling Items 9.E. and 9.L. for discussion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Flescher, Vice Chairman Loar, Commissioner Adams, Commissioner Earman, and Commissioner Moss

- 9.A.** Miscellaneous Budget Amendment 03

Approved staff's recommendation and Resolution 2025-024, amending the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget.

- 9.B.** Request for Ratification of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement
FY24 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program
Approved staff's recommendation
- 9.C.** Fourth of July Fireworks Funding
Approved staff's recommendation
- 9.D** Reimbursement Resolution for Sandridge Golf Club New Clubhouse
Approved staff's recommendation and Resolution 2025-025, with respect to reimbursement of certain costs and expenditures relating to Capital Improvements in and for Indian River County, Florida.
- 9.E.** Acceptance of Amended Sponsorship from Cleveland Clinic for Centennial Celebration
Commissioner Moss spoke in opposition to the sponsorship, encouraging the hospital to spend every penny on patient care.
A motion was made by Commissioner Adams, seconded by Chairman Flescher, to approve staff's recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:
Aye: 4 - Chairman Flescher, Vice Chairman Loar, Commissioner Adams, and Commissioner Earman
Nay: 1 - Commissioner Moss
- 9.F.** Request Use of Proceeds from the Opioid Settlement to Begin the Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT) Program in Cooperation with Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network (SEFBHN)
Approved staff's recommendation
- 9.G.** Grant Application for Funding Assistance from the State of Florida Beach Erosion Control Program - FY 2026/27
Approved staff's recommendation and Resolution 2025-026, requesting assistance from the State of Florida Beach Erosion Control Program - FY 2026/27.
- 9.H.** Request for Authorization to Submit an Application for Section 5311 Grant for Rural Transit Operating Assistance Funds
Approved staff's recommendation and Resolution 2025-027, authorizing the submission of a Grant Application for 49 USC Ch. 53, Section 5311 Public Transit Operating Assistance.
- 9.I.** Work Order with Schulke, Bittle, and Stoddard, LLC, for Design of a Transit Maintenance Building Addition
Approved staff's recommendation

9.J. State Highway Lighting, Maintenance, And Compensation Agreement Renewal

Approved staff's recommendation

9.K. First Extension of Contract with International Golf Maintenance, Inc. for Maintenance Services at Sandridge Golf Club

Approved staff's recommendation

9.L. Engineering and Design of 32nd Avenue, 43rd Place and 44th Street in Gifford Neighborhood

Public Works Director Addie Javed provided the Board with a progress update of the roadway and drainage improvements in Gifford. He stated the next steps were to complete the engineering and design, which involved assessing paving options, right-of-way (ROW) impacts, easements, permitting, and minimizing drainage issues. He expected this phase to take four to six months, and would be expedited where possible. Mr. Javed advised the Item would be brought back before the Board with a recommendation once the bidding was complete.

County Attorney Jennifer Shuler spoke of adhering to the acquisition process for ROW in the face of expediting the timeline. Chairman Flescher spoke of the County's commitment to the project, and assured property rights would be respected.

Commissioner Adams acknowledged the ROW constraints, and noted there would be conversation on the subject before moving forward. Mr. Javed asked the Commissioners to encourage residents' collaboration in expediting the project.

A motion was made by Commissioner Adams, seconded by Chairman Flescher, to approve staff's recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Flescher, Vice Chairman Loar, Commissioner Adams, Commissioner Earman, and Commissioner Moss

9.M. Request for Funding and Authorization to Purchase Equipment for Road and Bridge Operations

Approved staff's recommendation

9.N. Approval of Fifth Renewal of Fourth Amendment of Property Lease for Temporary Location of Fire Station #7

Approved staff's recommendation

10. CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS and GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

11. PUBLIC ITEMS

A. PUBLIC HEARINGS

PROOF OF PUBLICATION FOR THIS HEARING IS ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK TO THE BOARD.

11.A. Ordinance Establishing a One-Year Temporary Moratorium on Zoning Changes and Comprehensive Plan Amendments in the Oslo Corridor Study Area

Planning and Development Services Director Chris Balter presented the Ordinance in follow up to the Board's approval on May 20, 2025, of the one-year temporary moratorium on Zoning and Comprehensive Plan amendments in the Oslo Corridor study area.

Commissioner Moss received information from Mr. Balter on the process of implementation which included making a broad outline for the Oslo Corridor design based on previously received public input. He stated it was staff's goal to allow more uses for the area that were complimentary, while avoiding haphazard development. Mr. Balter added that it was too soon to issue a timeline.

Chairman Flescher asked County Attorney Jennifer Shuler if the moratorium was extendable. Ms. Shuler advised against extending the moratorium due to the Bert Harris Act which provided relief if government regulations unfairly limited the use or value of private property.

The Chairman opened the public hearing. There being no comments, the Chairman closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner Earman, to approve staff's recommendation and Ordinance 2025-009, authorizing a temporary moratorium for one (1) year, within the unincorporated areas of Indian River County specific to the Oslo Corridor Study area prohibiting the filing, acceptance, processing and/or consideration of any application or request for a zoning change or Comprehensive Plan amendment; providing for the implementation of administrative actions; providing a savings clause; providing for noncodification and scrivener's errors; providing for conflicts; providing for severability; repeal of conflicting provisions, and providing an effective date. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Flescher, Vice Chairman Loar, Commissioner Adams, Commissioner Earman, and Commissioner Moss

11.B.

FY 2025 Grant Application for Capital and Operating Assistance (Section 5307) and Bus Replacement (Section 5339) from the Federal Transit Administration

Mark Vietze, Senior Planner, Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), presented the Board with background information on the County's GoLine and Community Coach transit services, reviewing how the fare-free system was set up, the County's partnership with the Senior Resource Administration, and performance metrics. Notably, ridership was estimated to reach 1.5 million by 2027 while maintaining the lowest operating expense per passenger trip in the State. Mr. Vietze then went on to detail the grants which would provide \$6.5 million for capital and operating assistance, and \$571,386 for bus replacement.

The Chairman opened the public hearing.

Karen Deigl, CEO, Senior Resource Association, thanked the Board for their support. Chairman Flescher commended Ms. Deigl and her team for operating the GoLine in an efficient and conservative fashion.

There being no further comments, the Chairman closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Earman thanked the team for their excellent management of the system.

A motion was made by Commissioner Earman, seconded by Chairman Flescher, to approve staff's recommendation and Resolution 2025-028, authorizing the filing of applications for grant funding assistance from the Federal Transit Administration. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Flescher, Vice Chairman Loar, Commissioner Adams, Commissioner Earman, and Commissioner Moss

11.C. Local Provider Participation Fund Approval (Legislative)

Deputy County Attorney Susan Prado presented the Renewal of Agreement letter for the Local Provider Participation Fund (LPPF) which helped local hospitals recover greater reimbursement for Medicaid services. Ms. Prado informed the Board the renewal was being brought forward earlier than in previous years due to impending state legislation.

The Chairman opened the public hearing.

Colleen Ernst, Adelanto Healthcare Ventures, expressed thanks for the Board's support the past five years. Ms. Ernst informed the Board that hospitals were able to increase reimbursement for Medicaid services from 60 percent to 80 percent, and up to a full 100 percent this coming year, at no cost to taxpayers.

Cortez Whatley, Orlando Health, thanked the Board for supporting the hospital in improving patient quality of care.

Joseph Ianotti, Cleveland Clinic Indian River County, thanked the Board for their support.

There being no further comments, the Chairman closed the hearing.

A motion was made by Commissioner Moss, seconded by Chairman Flescher, to approve staff's recommendation and Resolution 2025-029, authorizing and adopting a non-ad valorem special assessment within the County limits for the purpose of benefiting assessed properties through enhanced Medicaid payments for local services; finding and determining that certain real property is specially benefited by the assessment; collecting the assessment against the real property; establishing a public hearing to consider imposition of the proposed assessment and the method of its collection; authorizing and directing the publication of notices in connection therewith; providing for certain other authorizations and delegations of authority as necessary; and providing an effective date. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Flescher, Vice Chairman Loar, Commissioner Adams, Commissioner Earman, and Commissioner Moss

B. PUBLIC NOTICE ITEMS**12. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR MATTERS**

12.A. Request from Indian River Mosquito Control District to use Commission Chambers October 1st, 2025, or October 15th, 2025

County Administrator John Titkanich sought the Board's permission for the Mosquito Control District's use of Chambers, as required by recently adopted policy. Chairman Flescher received confirmation from Administrator Titkanich that there was no conflict on either of the requested dates.

A motion was made by Commissioner Earman, seconded by Commissioner Moss, to grant permission to the Indian River Mosquito Control Board to utilize the Commission Chambers this October, 2025. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Flescher, Vice Chairman Loar, Commissioner Adams, Commissioner Earman, and Commissioner Moss

12.B. Executive Session to Discuss IAFF Negotiations - Battalion Chief Unit

The Chairman announced the Executive Session would follow Item 16.B.4.

No Action Taken or Required

12.C. Executive Session to Discuss IAFF Negotiations - Rank & File Unit

The Chairman announced the Executive Session would follow Item 16.B.4.

No Action Taken or Required

13. DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS

A. Building and Facilities Services

B. Community Services

C. Emergency Services

D. Human Resources

E. Information Technology

F. Natural Resources

G. Office of Management and Budget

H. Parks, Recreation, and Conservation

I. Planning and Development Services

J. Public Works

K. Sandridge Golf Club

L. Utilities Services

14. COUNTY ATTORNEY MATTERS

15. COMMISSIONERS MATTERS

A. Commissioner Joseph E. Flescher, Chairman

B. Commissioner Deryl Loar, Vice Chairman

C. Commissioner Susan Adams

D. Commissioner Joseph H. Earman

E. Commissioner Laura Moss

The Chairman called for a recess at 10:07 a.m, and resumed the meeting at 10:18 a.m. with all members present.

16. SPECIAL DISTRICTS AND BOARDS

The Board of County Commissioners reconvened as the Board of Commissioners of the Solid Waste Disposal District. The minutes will be approved at an upcoming Solid Waste Disposal District meeting.

A. Emergency Services District

B. Solid Waste Disposal District

16.B.1. Approval of the SWDD Meeting Minutes of April 08, 2025

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Loar, seconded by Chairman Flescher, to approve the Solid Waste Disposal District Meeting Minutes of April 8, 2025 as written. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Flescher, Vice Chairman Loar, Commissioner Adams, Commissioner Earman, and Commissioner Moss

16.B.2.**Request to Amend the Solid Waste and Recyclables Collection Franchise Agreement between SWDD and Waste Management, Inc. of Florida**

Director of Utility Services Sean Lieske began his presentation with a recap of the County's decision to implement Universal garbage collection service with Waste Management (WM) through a 10-year contract starting October 1, 2025. This included delivering new carts for recycling in June/July, yard waste carts in August, and garbage carts in September. Residents raised concerns which led to staff negotiating two amendments to the contract, presented for the Board's approval.

Mr. Lieske detailed the modifications starting with allowing Home Owners Associations (HOA) to opt-out of receiving yard waste carts for all of their units. The decision could not be reversed for the length of the contract, and HOAs had to inform WM by July 15, 2025. It was noted that opting out of yard waste collection would not change the total cost of service. The second amendment regarded the delivery of 65-gallon recycling carts which were too large for some residents. Initially, people could request a swap for a smaller cart starting on January 2, 2026. The modification allowed swap requests to start August 1, 2025, with deliveries during October 2025. Mr. Lieske explained the cost for this earlier delivery would be handled as a credit against future administrative charges.

Discussion ensued between the Board and Mr. Lieske, along with Debbie Perez, WM Government Affairs Manager. Topics included the effect of WM's credit balance, concerns regarding unneeded yard waste containers, problems storing multiple or too-large carts, timing of cart deliveries, and customer service options. Ms. Perez informed residents who were not in an HOA community that they would receive yard waste carts, but could call to have them reclaimed if not needed. She also gave details regarding the delivery of new recycling carts, and the coordinated pick-up of the old ones.

The following people addressed the Board:

Gary Wilbun felt it was unfair to pay for services he did not want or need, and expressed concern for family members living on a fixed income. He later received confirmation that the Convenience Centers would remain open.

Tom Surat explained new recycling bins were too large to fit in his garage, as required by his HOA. He requested an earlier date for swapping.

Cynthia Ketcham told of her difficulty in getting correct information. She explained she did not need pick up service, could not afford it, and was overwhelmed by

another expense.

Paul Freeman suggested Waste Management apply their savings from HOAs which were not receiving yard waste pick-up, as credits for those who could not afford service.

A Concerned Resident received information regarding swapping recycling bins, and requested a copy of the opt-out letter for his HOA.

A Concerned Resident told the Board he did not want the yard waste container, and felt he should not have to pay for the service. Chairman Flescher explained this was a package of services for the benefit of the community, and did not have a la carte choices.

Christopher Mackie requested the Board include COAs (Condominium Owners Associations), along with HOAs, in the contract for legal reasons. He also voiced the following concerns: seasonal residents could not receive/swap bins, liability/insurance impacts, and wildlife access to accessible trash bins. He asked if delivery could be held until the smaller bins were ready.

Jayne Killian, Waverly Place, informed the Board her community did not receive the mailing explaining the new system, and residents were unprepared to receive new bins. She asked how to improve communication and to receive correct information. Chairman Flescher apologized for the miscommunication, and offered direct communication with her community.

Donna Keys expressed her displeasure with the schedule of cart delivery, and received answers to her questions regarding opting out of the yard waste container, the inability to receive a delivery date for a specific community, the inability to change delivery dates to later in the season, and the revised October date for receiving smaller carts. The Board and staff entered into discussion with Ms. Keys, asking her community to work together to find solutions for snowbird's cart storage.

Joi Royce explained her community's difficulty handling and storing the large recycling bins, concerns with wildlife access, and asked the Board to consider delaying more cart deliveries to HOAs.

Ms. Perez spoke of the value WM placed in its partnership with the residents of the County, and explained the intricacies of manufacturing and delivering 200,000 new bins.

Commissioner Adams received a recap from Mr. Lieske of the issues the Board was being asked to consider.

A motion was made by Commissioner Adams, seconded by Vice Chairman Loar, to approve staff's recommendation, as amended to include COAs in the contract revisions. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Flescher, Vice Chairman Loar, Commissioner Adams, Commissioner Earman, and Commissioner Moss

16.B.3.

Final Pay to Geosyntec for Work Order No. 5 – Permit Compliance Monitoring and Reporting Indian River County Landfill Facility

There was no discussion regarding this item.

A motion was made by Commissioner Adams, seconded by Vice Chairman Loar, to approve staff's recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Flescher, Vice Chairman Loar, Commissioner Adams, Commissioner Earman, and Commissioner Moss

16.B.4.

Annual SWDD Rate Study Update

Director of Utility Services Sean Lieske introduced the Item, and handed the presentation over to Peter Engel, Senior Consultant with Kessler Consulting, Inc. (KSI). Mr. Engel used a PowerPoint presentation to discuss the Solid Waste Disposal District (SWDD) Rate Study. The study was done within the context of new Waste Generation Units (WGU) Rates set to start in Fiscal Year (FY) 2027, and did not include the new Collection Assessment with Waste Management which was fully funded.

Mr. Engel noted the study focused on adjustments to the Service Assessment Rate (landfill and convenience center operation, landfill leachate, and yard waste composting) and tipping fees to ensure required revenue and reserves were sufficient. The report included four different scenarios of various rate increases and their effect on revenue and reserve balances. Commissioner Adams requested details of the fourth scenario as it would impact residents the least. Mr. Engel discussed the rate increases which would take effect FY 26 through FY 30, the impact to homeowners, and tipping fee comparisons.

Vice Chairman Loar stated his reasons for supporting Scenario 4, as recommended by staff.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Loar, seconded by Chairman Flescher, to approve staff's recommendation of Scenario 4. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chairman Flescher, Vice Chairman Loar, Commissioner Adams, Commissioner Earman, and Commissioner Moss

C. Environmental Control Board

17. PUBLIC COMMENT: NON-AGENDA-RELATED MATTERS

18. ADJOURNMENT

The Board returned from their closed sessions with all members present to end the meeting. There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 4:06 p.m.