



Indian River County Florida

Indian River County
Administration Complex
1801 27th Street, Building
A
Vero Beach, Florida,
32960-3388
www.indianriver.gov

Meeting Minutes - Final

Board of County Commissioners

Joseph H. Earman, District 3, Chairman

Susan Adams, District 1, Vice Chairman

Joseph Flescher, District 2

Deryl Loar, District 4

Laura Moss, District 5

John A. Titkanich, Jr., County Administrator

William K. DeBaal, County Attorney

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

Tuesday, October 17, 2023

9:00 AM

Commission Chambers

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

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

2.B. INVOCATION

Pastor Chris Kollmann, Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Joseph E. Flescher, Commissioner

4. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA / EMERGENCY ITEMS

A motion was made by Commissioner Flescher, seconded by Commissioner Moss, to approve the Agenda as presented. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

5. PROCLAMATIONS and PRESENTATIONS

- 5.A. [23-0930](#) Presentation of Proclamation Honoring the 2023-2024 Indian River County Fire Rescue Lieutenant, Sergeant, Engineer, Firemedic, and Unit of the Year

Recommended Action: Read and Present

Attachments: [Proclamation](#)

Chairman Earman read the Proclamation that recognized the outstanding performance of the 2023-2024 Indian River County Fire Rescue award winners. The honorees included Lieutenant Brad Eskew as the Lieutenant of the Year, Sergeant Mim Strote as Sergeant of the Year, Engineer Blake Bartholomew as Engineer of the Year, Fire Medic Tamas Boroczky as Fire Medic of the Year, and the Unit comprised of Donald Jones, Garrett Dancy, Bryant Smith, and Mario Navarro.

Chief David Johnson, the Emergency Services Director, expressed his pride in the honorees and the entire department for their service to Indian River County. Chief Dave Rattray also thanked the Board for recognizing the hard work and dedication of the men and women in the Fire Service and presented each of them with their well-deserved awards.

Each Commissioner and the County Administrator expressed their respect for the professionalism and dedication of those who serve in Indian River County Fire Rescue.

Read and presented by Chairman Earman

- 5.B. [23-0947](#) Presentation of Proclamation Designating October, 2023, As Manufacturing Month in Indian River County, Florida

Recommended Action: Read and Present

Attachments: [Proclamation](#)

Helene Caseltine, Economic Development Director, Indian River County Chamber of Commerce, expressed her gratitude to the Board for acknowledging the crucial role played by the manufacturing industry in Indian River County. She highlighted the diverse range of manufacturing businesses operating in the County, the technical nature of modern manufacturing jobs, and the Manufacturing Boot Camp program organized for high school students. Joining her were the following representatives:

- Kristine Burr, Career Specialist from Indian River School District
- Alison Moody, Career Specialist from Vero Beach High School
- Carlo Cozzio, Manufacturer at Novurania of America, Inc.
- Melody Ipolito, Manpower Business Development Manager
- Christi Shields, Principal, Treasure Coast Technical College

Read and presented by Vice Chairman Adams

- 5.C. [23-0954](#) Presentation of Proclamation Recognizing the Month of October, 2023, As National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Recommended Action: Read and Present

Attachments: [Proclamation](#)

Aimee Cooper, CFO for the Indian River County Sheriff's Office and Board President of SafeSpace, introduced Jennifer Fox as the new CEO of SafeSpace. Ms. Fox expressed her gratitude to everyone for acknowledging this month as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. She also mentioned that her team was working hard to raise awareness about domestic violence in the community.

Sheriff Eric Flowers thanked the Board for recognizing the issue of mental health and domestic violence during the month of October. He mentioned that Indian River County was the only County that still followed the tradition of wearing Red High Heels at the Walk a Mile in Her Shoes fundraiser.

Commissioner Moss expressed her gratitude and stressed the significance of spreading the message.

Read and presented by Commissioner Loar

- 5.D. [23-0945](#) Presentation of Proclamation Designating the Week of October 15 Through October 21, 2023 As National Friends of the Library Week

Recommended Action: Read and Present

Attachments: [Proclamation](#)

Elizabeth “Betsy” Stenger, Director of Library Services, shared information about the Friends of the Library and the services they provide. The Friends of the Library raises money through membership and donations. They also run used book sales at the North County Library and operate the Used Book Depot on Old Dixie Highway in Indian River County. In addition, the Friends of the Library gift shop was located in the Main Library. The Friends sponsor library programming for all ages. Ms. Stenger was joined by Branch Managers Hollie McDougall and Kathleen Bowman, along with staff from the Friends of the Library.

Deputy County Administrator, Mike Zito appreciated the efforts made by Ms. Stenger to lead the library system and under her leadership the libraries were thriving. With the addition of new staff, the library's commitment to youth and education would reach new heights. He also expressed his appreciation for the selfless mission of the Friends of the Library and looked forward to their continued relationship.

Read and presented by Commissioner Moss

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 6.A. [23-0962](#) Regular Meeting of September 12, 2023

Recommended Action: Approve

Attachments: [09122023 BCC Draft](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Flescher, seconded by Vice Chairman Adams, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 12, 2023 as written. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

- 6.B. [23-0964](#) Preliminary Budget Hearing Meeting of September 13, 2023

Recommended Action: Approve

Attachments: [09132023 Preliminary Budget Draft](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Flescher, seconded by Vice Chairman Adams, to approve the Preliminary Budget Hearing Meeting Minutes of September 13, 2023 as written. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

6.C. [23-0966](#) Final Budget Hearing Meeting for September 20, 2023

Recommended Action: Approve

Attachments: [09202023 Final Budget Draft](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Flescher, seconded by Vice Chairman Adams, to approve the Final Budget Hearing Meeting Minutes of September 13, 2023 as written. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

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

7.A. [23-0949](#) Completion of September 2023 Derelict Vessel Removal

Recommended Action: There is no Board action needed under the Derelict Vessel Project update

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)

Melissa Meisenburg, Lagoon Plan Environmental Specialist, utilized a PowerPoint presentation to provide an update on the Derelict Vessel Removal Project. She explained the due process outlined in Section 705.103(2) and highlighted the negative impacts these derelict vessels have on waterways, such as creating navigational hazards, debris, pollutants, and damaging oyster reefs, shoreline plants, and submerged aquatic vegetation. Ms. Meisenburg also provided the locations of the three derelict vessels and showed a short clip of one vessel being removed, noting that Outlaw Maritime, LLC was contracted to remove the vessels at a cost of \$31,295, and the work was completed on September 29, 2023.

Commissioner Flescher inquired about the procedure for recovering expenses incurred in removing vessels. Melissa explained that the County receives a 100% reimbursement from a Fish and Wildlife Conservation (FWC) grant once the contractor has finished the removal process.

No Action Taken or Required

8. CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Flescher, seconded by Vice Chairman Adams, to approve the Consent Agenda as amended, pulling Item 8.D. for discussion. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

- 8.A.** [23-0923](#) Approval of Interlocal Agreement between the Indian River County Board of County Commissioners and the Indian River County Sheriff's Office to Provide Meals for Declared and Local Emergencies

Recommended Action: Staff recommends approval of the Interlocal Agreement between the Indian River County Board of County Commissioners and the Indian River County Sheriff's Office (IRCISO) to provide meals for declared and local emergencies.

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
 [Interlocal Agreement](#)

Approved staff's recommendation

- 8.B.** [23-0927](#) Approval of Treasure Coast Fire Chiefs Association Interlocal Agreement to Provide Mutual Aid for Fire Protection and Emergency Rescue Services

Recommended Action: Staff recommends Approval of the Treasure Coast Fire Chiefs Interlocal Agreement to Provide Mutual Aid for Fire Protection and Emergency Rescue Services.

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
 [TCFCA Interlocal Agreement](#)

Approved staff's recommendation

- 8.C.** [23-0938](#) United Against Poverty, Inc., Memorandum of Understanding

Recommended Action: Staff respectfully requests the Board of County Commissioners approve the Memorandum of Understanding with United Against Poverty for the Human Services Food Voucher Program and authorize the Chairman to execute the agreement after review and approval by the County Attorney for legal sufficiency.

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
 [MOU - Food Voucher Program](#)

Approved staff's recommendation

8.D. [23-0939](#) Addition to Administrative Policy Manual - AM-505.1 Tuition Assistance Policy

Recommended Action: Staff respectfully requests the Board of County Commissioners approve the addition of AM-505.1 Tuition Assistance to the Administrative Policy Manual and the associated funding request.

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
 [AM-505.1 Tuition Assistance](#)

Vice Chairman Adams stated it was commendable that the County was promoting the professional growth of its employees and investing in its staff. The aim was to retain staff for longer periods and provide them with a fulfilling career.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Adams, seconded by Commissioner Moss, to approve the addition to the Administrative Policy Manual and the associated funding. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

8.E. [23-0940](#) Revision to AM-501.1 Disclosure of Benefits

Recommended Action: Staff respectfully requests the Board of County Commissioners approve the revision to AM-501.1 Disclosure of Benefits.

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
 [AM-501.1 Disclosure of Benefits](#)

Approved staff's recommendation

8.F. [23-0958](#) Amendment to Meeks Plumbing, Inc. Contract, RFP 2023007

Recommended Action: Staff recommends the Board of County Commissioners approve the Amended Exhibit 1 to the Agreement - Pricing for the Meeks-Indian River County contract. Upon satisfactory completion of the customer connections in West Wabasso Phase 3A and 3B sewer connections, staff is directed to make final payment and release any retainage to Meeks Plumbing, Inc., after review and approval by the Purchasing Manager and the County Attorney's Office

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
 [Amended Exhibit 1 - Pricing](#)

Approved staff's recommendation

- 8.G.** [23-0959](#) Atkins North America, Inc. Work Order No.1 - West Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility Clarifiers 1 and 2 Rehabilitation

Recommended Action: Staff recommends that the Board of County Commissioners approve Work Order No. 1 with Atkins North America, Inc. (Atkins) in the amount of \$222,313.70 to provide technical services for replacement of the mechanisms for Clarifiers 1 and 2 and authorize the Chair to execute the same. So long as there are no changes in the dollar amount under the work order and upon adequate completion of the work set forth in the work order, staff is directed to make final payment and release any retainage to Atkins, after review and approval by the Purchasing Manager and the County Attorney's Office

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
 [WO #1 – WRWT Facility Clarifier #1 and #2 Rehabilitation](#)

Approved staff's recommendation

- 8.H.** [23-0960](#) Bowman Consulting Group, LTD. Work Order 14 Amendment 1 - North County 24-Inch Force Main Replacement

Recommended Action: Staff recommends the Board of County Commissioners approve Amendment 1 to Work Order 14 for Bowman Consulting Group, LTD., to provide additional services to change the alignment of the North County 24-inch force main in the amount not-to-exceed \$20,296.34, and authorize the Chairman to sign on their behalf

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
 [Amendment 1 WO 14](#)

Approved staff's recommendation

- 8.I. [23-0944](#) FDOT Small County Outreach Program (SCOP) Agreement and Resolution Authorizing the Chairman’s Signature for Construction and CEI of 43rd Avenue (12th Street to 18th Street) IRC-1818, FM No. 444270-1-54-01

Recommended Action: Staff recommends the Board of County Commissioners approve the Small County Outreach Program (SCOP) Agreement and Resolution and authorize the Chairman to execute the same.

- Attachments:** [Staff Report](#)
[Indian River County Grant Form](#)
[Authorizing Resolution](#)
[SCOP Agreement](#)

Approved staff’s recommendation and Resolution 2023-065, authorizing the Chairman’s execution of Small County Outreach Program (SCOP) with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for construction and CEI of 43rd Avenue (12th Street to 18th Street).

9. CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS and GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

10. PUBLIC ITEMS

A. PUBLIC HEARINGS

10.A.1. [23-0950](#)

Public Hearing: Amending the Code of Indian River County, Section 102.04, Order of Business Agenda for County Commission Meetings; and Amending Section 901.03 Definitions in Alphabetical Order (Legislative)

Recommended Action: Staff recommends the Board open the public hearing, take input from any interested parties and approve the Code amendment and authorize the Chairman to execute the code amendment on behalf of the Board.

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)
[Proposed Code Amendment](#)
[Affidavit of Publication - Amending Code 102.04 Order of Business](#)

County Attorney Bill DeBraal explained that the ordinance amendment would identify the newly added departments, rename other departments, and eliminate the General Services Department. This was achieved by adding two definitions instead of modifying 110 items in the code that refer to either the Community Development Director or the Community Development Department in Section 901.03.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Flescher, seconded by Commissioner Loar, to approve staff's recommendation and adopt Ordinance 2023-014, amending the Code of Indian River County, Section 102.04, Order of Business Agenda for County Commission meetings; together with amending Section 901.03 Definitions in Alphabetical Order; and providing for codification, severability, repeal of conflicting provisions, and an effective date. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

B. PUBLIC DISCUSSION ITEMS**C. PUBLIC NOTICE ITEMS****11. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR MATTERS**

11.A. [23-0935](#) Joint Meeting - City of Vero Beach and Indian River County

Recommended Action: Review, discuss and approve the topics for discussion with the City of Vero Beach

Attachments: [Staff Report Joint City County Meeting](#)

County Administrator John Titkanich announced that the next joint meeting with the City of Vero Beach will be held on October 24th, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., at the County Main Library. The proposed topics will cover utilities, service territory, plan capacity, septic to sewer, park recreation opportunities, and potential acquisition of services. Other topics may include roadways, Building Department, Fire Marshall, and regional growth impact.

Commissioner Moss requested that if there was extra time during the joint meeting, could a discussion be had regarding the County lobbyist's matters in Tallahassee that would affect both parties in the interest of good governance and intergovernmental cooperation.

Vice Chairman Adams pointed out that the County had always worked collaboratively with lobbyists and advocates whenever issues affected the City and the County. She believed that having more people advocating, whether for an appropriation or a policy change, would be helpful. However, she expressed concern about adding this to the official agenda because the conversation had not been had with the City of Sebastian. She did not want the other Municipalities to feel like this was a unique relationship between the County and the City of Vero Beach. Ms. Adams cautioned that when items were added specifically to the agenda, it may appear that the County would only do this with Vero Beach, but not with Sebastian or Fellsmere. She believed this topic was already covered under the umbrella policy of working together as a community.

Commissioner Flescher questioned why the County would raise an issue with one municipality when the County had not done so in the past. He stated the County had a good relationship with the Sheriff's Office and Fire Marshalls and a great inter-relationship with municipalities. He asserted it was unnecessary to include these topics on the agenda. He further stated he was hesitant about presenting our lobbyist as a topic for discussion with the city where the County had not had that conversation with other municipalities.

Chairman Earman agreed to work collaboratively on fundamental issues for citizens' betterment and to discuss legislative issues in future special call meetings.

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

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

11.B. [23-0937](#) Four County Joint Resolution

Recommended Action: Staff recommends that the Indian River County Board of County Commissioners adopt the resolution to hold a joint meeting with the Board of County Commissioners for St. Lucie County, the Board of County Commissioners for Martin County, and the Board of County Commissioners for Okeechobee County to discuss joint legislative priorities in anticipation of the State of Florida's 2024 legislative session.

Attachments: [Staff Report Four County Joint Meeting Resolution](#)

County Administrator John Titkanich stated a meeting had been scheduled between the County Commissioners of Indian River, St. Lucie, Martin, and Okeechobee counties. The meeting would take place on Friday, October 27, 2023, at 10:00 am at the Indian River State College Pruitt Campus' STEM Center Auditorium in Port St. Lucie, Florida. This meeting would be held in accordance with section 125.001 of the Florida Statutes, which permits the Board to hold a joint meeting with the governing bodies of adjacent counties or municipalities to discuss issues of mutual interest.

Administrator Titkanich outlined several topics for discussion during the meeting, including biosolid waste to energy, septic to sewer, the impact of House Bill 1379, potential funding opportunities by 2030, legislative approach for affordable housing, Senate Bill 102, removing permitted rights in residential and industrial zoning districts, and an update on the medical examiner facility and the plans for its construction in 2025.

There was no further discussion on the Item.

A motion was made by Commissioner Flescher, seconded by Vice Chairman Adams, to approve topics for discussion and Resolution 2023-066, authorizing the Board of County Commissioners for Indian River County to participate in a Joint Meeting with the Board of County Commissioners of St. Lucie County, the Board of County Commissioners of Martin County, and the Board of County Commissioners of Okeechobee County, to discuss and plan matters of mutual interest; and providing for an effective date. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

12. DEPARTMENTAL MATTERS

- A. Community Development**
- B. Emergency Services**
- C. General Services**
- D. Human Resources**
- E. Information Technology**
- F. Office of Management and Budget**
- G. Public Works**
- H. Utilities Services**

13. COUNTY ATTORNEY MATTERS

14. COMMISSIONERS MATTERS

- A. Commissioner Joseph H. Earman, Chairman**
- B. Commissioner Susan Adams, Vice Chairman**
- C. Commissioner Joseph E. Flescher**
- D. Commissioner Deryl Loar**
- E. Commissioner Laura Moss**

15. SPECIAL DISTRICTS AND BOARDS

- A. Emergency Services District**
- B. Solid Waste Disposal District**
- C. Environmental Control Board**

16. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 10:10 a.m.