Board of County Commissioners
Regular Public Meeting
Monday, September 21, 2026

The Board of County Commissioners in and for Wakulla County, Florida met for a Regular Public Meeting on Monday, September 21, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. with Chairperson Ralph Thomas presiding. Present were Commissioners Quincee Messersmith, Josh Lawhon, Valerie Russell, and Fred Nichols. Also present were County Administrator David Edwards, County Attorney Heather Encinosa, and Deputy Clerk Brandy King.

The invocation was provided by Commissioner Nichols.

The Pledge of Allegiance was provided by Commissioner Nichols.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The County Attorney noted that Tabs 15 and 16 are being tabled to a future meeting.

(6:01) Commissioner Nichols moved to approve the agenda as amended; second by Commissioner Lawhon and the motion passed unanimously, 5/0.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

(6:01) Dr. Chuck Hess – fill dirt for new house on Emmett Whaley

(6:05) Shirlene Lashley – property infringement by neighbor

PUBLIC HEARING

(6:10)

1. Request Board Approval to Conduct the Second Public Hearing and Adopt the FY2026/2027 Final Millage Rate and Final Budget

CHAIRMAN:

This is the second of two required public hearings on the Wakulla County Budget for Fiscal Year 2026/2027. If you wish to speak during the public hearing portion of this meeting, please come to the podium when you are called.

The proposed final aggregate millage rate is 7.7000 mills which is 1.55% less than the aggregate rolled-back millage rate of 7.8216 mills.

Now the County Administrator will read the final millage rate into the public record.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR:

The proposed Board of County Commissioners of Wakulla County final countywide millage rate is 7.7000 mills which is 1.55% less than the countywide rolled-back millage rate of 7.8216 mills.

CHAIRMAN:
I'm opening the floor for a motion to begin the public hearing.

(6:11)
Commissioner Nichols moved to Approve to Conduct the Second Public Hearing and Adopt the FY2026/2027 Final Millage Rate and Final Budget; second by Commissioner Messersmith and the motion passed unanimously, 5/0.

There were no citizen/s to be heard. There was discussion among the Board.

(6:12)
Commissioner Nichols moved to close the Public Hearing; second by Commissioner Messersmith and the motion passed unanimously, 5/0.

CHAIRMAN:
Florida Statutes require the Board to address the final millage rate before addressing the final budget. The Board must vote on the millage rate and the budget separately. I will now entertain the following motions:

(6:13)
Commissioner Nichols moved to Approve the Board of County Commissioners FY2026/2027 final countywide millage rate of 7.7000 mills; second by Commissioner Russell and the motion passed unanimously, 5/0.

(6:13)
Commissioner Nichols moved to Approve the Board of County Commissioners FY2026/2027 final countywide budget as presented by the County Administrator on July 13, 2026 and as amended through the agenda process today; second by Commissioner Lawhon and the motion passed unanimously, 5/0.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS
(6:14) Wakulla County 4-H Week October 4-10, 2026 – Rachel Pienta, Extension Agent III/ 4-H Agent

CONSENT
(6:19) Commissioner Nichols moved to approve the consent agenda; second by Commissioner Lawhon and the motion passed unanimously, 5/0.

2. Approval of Minutes from the September 8, 2026 Regular Board Meeting

Approve - Minutes from the September 8, 2026 Regular Board Meeting

3. Approval for Payment of the Bills and Vouchers Submitted for Sept 3, 2026 – September 16, 2026
   Approve - Payment of the Bills and Vouchers Submitted for Sept 3, 2026 – September 16, 2026

4. Request Board Approval of a Proclamation Declaring October 4-10, 2026 as National 4-H Week in Wakulla County
   Approve - Proclamation Declaring October 4-10, 2026 as National 4-H Week in Wakulla County

5. Request Board Approval of the Wakulla County Health Department Core Contract and Amended Fee Schedule for FY2026/2027
   Approve - Wakulla County Health Department Core Contract and Amended Fee Schedule for FY2026/2027

6. Request Board Approval of a Resolution Accepting a Warranty Deed from Collin and Emily Johnson for Property Located on Maxson Road
   Approve - Resolution Accepting a Warranty Deed from Collin and Emily Johnson for Property Located on Maxson Road

7. Request Board Approval of a Resolution Accepting a Warranty Deed from the Senior Citizens Council, Inc. for Property Located at 3095 Crawfordville Highway
   Approve - Resolution Accepting a Warranty Deed from the Senior Citizens Council, Inc. for Property Located at 3095 Crawfordville Highway

8. Request Board Approval of the Low Income Pool Letter of Agreement Between the County and Agency for Health Care Administration to Support the North Florida Medical Centers – Panacea Clinic
   Approve - Low Income Pool Letter of Agreement Between the County and Agency for Health Care Administration to Support the North Florida Medical Centers – Panacea Clinic

9. Request Board Approval of Modification Number One to the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for Hurricane Idalia Agreement H1262 Providing Grant Local Match Funds for Wakulla Gardens Stormwater Improvements

Approve - Modification Number One to the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for Hurricane Idalia Agreement H1262 Providing Grant Local Match Funds for Wakulla Gardens Stormwater Improvements

10. Request Board Approval of the Big Bend Community Based Care, Inc., d/b/a NWF Health Network Business Agreement #V0321 in the Amount of $277,943.28 in CORE Opioid Funds to Support the Cost of Medical Equipment for Wakulla County Fire Rescue
    Approve - Big Bend Community Based Care, Inc., d/b/a NWF Health Network Business Agreement #V0321 in the Amount of $277,943.28 in CORE Opioid Funds to Support the Cost of Medical Equipment for Wakulla County Fire Rescue

11. Request Board Approval to Accept and Award RFQ 2026-05 Construction Engineering and Inspection Services for Dr. MLK Jr. Memorial Road Multipurpose Path to Rummel, Klepper & Kahl LLP and Approve the Professional Consulting Services Contract
    Approve - Accept and Award RFQ 2026-05 Construction Engineering and Inspection Services for Dr. MLK Jr. Memorial Road Multipurpose Path to Rummel, Klepper & Kahl LLP and Approve the Professional Consulting Services Contract

12. Request Board Approval of Amendment No. 1 to the Continuing Services Agreement with Accenture Infrastructure and Capital Projects, LLC. for the Administration of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Grant Agreement LPF6501 Septic Upgrade Incentive Program
    Approve - Amendment No. 1 to the Continuing Services Agreement with Accenture Infrastructure and Capital Projects, LLC. for the Administration of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Grant Agreement LPF6501 Septic Upgrade Incentive Program

CONSENT ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

None

GENERAL BUSINESS

15. Request Board Approval of the Collective Bargaining Agreement Between Wakulla County and Tallahassee Professional Firefighters Local 2339 (Supervisory) of the International Association of Firefighters for the Period of October 1, 2026 – September 30, 2027 - **This Item is being tabled to a future meeting**

16. Request Board Approval of the Collective Bargaining Agreement Between Wakulla County and Tallahassee Professional Firefighters Local 2339 of the International

Association of Firefighters for the Period of October 1, 2026 – September 30, 2027 - **<u>This Item is being tabled to a future meeting</u>**

PLANNING AND ZONING

(6:19)

13. Request Board Approval to Conduct the Final Public Hearing and Adopt an Ordinance Amending Section 2-4 of the Land Development Code Related to Definitions and Creating Section 6-40 of the Land Development Code to Prohibit Data Centers Within the Unincorporated Areas of the County

    Commissioner Nichols moved to Approve to Conduct the Final Public Hearing and Adopt an Ordinance Amending Section 2- 4 of the Land Development Code Related to Definitions and Creating Section 6-40 of the Land Development Code to Prohibit Data Centers Within the Unincorporated Areas of the County; second by Commissioner Russell and the motion passed unanimously, 5/0.

(6:20)

14. Request Board Approval to Conduct the Final Public Hearing and Adopt an Ordinance Amending Policy 2.3.1 of the Comprehensive Plan Public School Facilities Element and Policies 1.8 and 7.1 of the Comprehensive Plan Capital Improvements Element Pertaining to Updates to the Five-Year Capital Improvement Schedule

    Commissioner Nichols moved to Approve to Conduct the Final Public Hearing and Adopt an Ordinance Amending Policy 2.3.1 of the Comprehensive Plan Public School Facilities Element and Policies 1.8 and 7.1 of the Comprehensive Plan Capital Improvements Element Pertaining to Updates to the Five-Year Capital Improvement Schedule; second by Commissioner Messersmith and the motion passed unanimously, 5/0.

COMMISSIONER AGENDA ITEMS

None

COUNTY ATTORNEY

None

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

(6:22) Library Grand Re-Opening September 29, 2026 at 9:00am at the New Library

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

None

DISCUSSION ISSUES BY COMMISSIONERS

(6:23) Commissioner Russell – Animal Services video on Facebook
(6:23) Commissioner Messersmith – alternate member on Value Adjustment Board

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Nichols moved to adjourn; second by Commissioner Lawhon and the motion passed unanimously, 5/0.

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.