MINUTES
SEMINOLE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MONTHLY WORK SESSION
BEALL CENTER
5:00 P.M.
MAY 20, 2025

The Seminole County Board of Commissioners held their Regular Monthly Work Session on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at the Beall Center. Chairman Shelia Williams, Commissioner Mark Spooner, Commissioner Jeff Braswell, Commissioner Brenda Williams, and County Manager / Clerk Paula Granger were present. No action was taken. Vice Chairman Culverson was absent.

MINUTES
SEMINOLE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
BEALL CENTER
MAY 20, 2025
6:00 P.M.

The Seminole County Board of Commissioners held their Regular Monthly Meeting on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at the Beall Center. Chairman Shelia Williams, Commissioner Mark Spooner, Commissioner Jeff Braswell, Commissioner Brenda Williams, and County Manager / Clerk Paula Granger were present. Vice Chairman Culverson was absent.

Chairman Williams called the meeting to order. Commissioner Braswell gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was conducted, a quorum was established. Vice Chairman Culverson was absent.

Chairman Williams stated the agenda needed to be amended to add Brenda Williams to New Business. A motion to amend the agenda was made by Commissioner Braswell with a second by Commissioner Spooner. All in favor, motion passed.

Guests

Mr. Justin Elliott with Mauldin & Jenkins provided a comprehensive presentation of their audit services Mr. Elliott stated the depreciation schedules would be included in their cost of $37,000 for the annual audit.

Constitutional Officer / Department Manager / Officials / Authority Updates

Mr. Bobby Aiken, Road Department Superintendent, discussed the purchase of a limb cutter and provided three quotes: Atlantic Southern & Equipment Company, $213,941.33, Atmax Equipment Company, $252,472.25; Sun South John Deere, $256,839.16; Energreen (demo) $270,000; Energreen, $287,155.00; Mantis, $298,770.76. Following a discussion, it was determined the Energreen demo machine would be the best option and there is no delay on the availability. The 33’ arm allows for keeping the Recreation Department ditch area and Oakview/Post Road ditches better maintained. A motion to purchase the demo machine from Energreen was made by Commissioner Braswell and a second by Commissioner Spooner. All in favor, motion passed.

Mr. Aiken provided two items to surplus: 2005 F150, 2016 TS 110 New Holland Tractor with a Tiger Boom. A motion to declare the items as surplus was made by Commissioner Spooner with a second by Commissioner Brenda Williams. All in favor, motion passed.

Sheriff Elliott requested the purchase of four patrol vehicles. Following the discussion, a motion to purchase three Chevrolet Tahoe's and one Ford F150 was made by Commissioner Spooner with a second by Commissioner Braswell. All in favor, motion passed.

Code Enforcement Officer Greg Long provided his monthly update as follows: 32 permits issues, 2 legal notices, 8 service connections, several complaints on livestock and irrigation end guns not being used.

Elections Superintendent Ron Foskey provided an update to the Board. Poll worker training is being held May 22 and May 29, 2025, at the Beall Center. Ms. Lori O'Kelly completed the Logistics & Accuracy testing for the polling equipment on May 17; all was found to be in order. Her fee for testing was $4,500. A motion to approve the cost of $4,500 was made by Commissioner Spooner with a second by Commissioner Brenda Williams. All in favor, motion passed. Mr. Foskey stated the Board of Elections meetings are being held the first Monday of each month. Advance in person voting will begin May 27 and go through June 13, 2025, and will include Saturday and Sunday voting.

Recreation Director Adam Kennedy requested the Board approve donating the surplus soccer goals to the Friendship House. A motion to approve the donation was made by Commissioner Spooner with a second by Commissioner Braswell. All in favor, motion passed. Mr. Kennedy updated the Board on the activities currently going on at the Rec Department.

Economic Development Authority Director Sarah Avery stated she is waiting for the engineer to provide an updated master plan for Reynolds Landing.

County Attorney Report

County Attorney Bill Mills reviewed the status report. There was no update on the Hotel Motel Tax, 8% is the suggested amount to collect. No update has been received from Georgia Department of Transportation regarding Hwy 91 ALT. No update was provided on the agreement for the airport property. The memorandum of agreement with the cities of Iron City and Donalsonville for election services was presented and approved by both cities. A motion to approve the IGA was made by Commissioner Braswell with a second by Commissioner Brenda Williams. All in favor, motion passed.

Financial Statements, ACO Report

The financial reports for April 2025 were approved with a motion by Commissioner Spooner and a second by Commissioner Brenda Williams. All in favor, motion passed.

The ACO Report was tabled with a motion by Commissioner Spooner and a second by Commissioner Braswell. All in favor, motion passed.

Unfinished Business

County Manager Granger provided the following updates:

CHIP Update – Construction contracts are scheduled to be signed by homeowners on May 22, 2025.

Health Department - All the windows have been replaced and set, interior trim is complete and will be painted. The replacement of vinyl siding and flashing has not started.

The Lakeside Festival has been rescheduled for July 4, 2025. County Manager Granger requested the use of the park launch fees, approximately $10,600, be used to pay for fireworks for the July 4th event. A motion to approve use of the park fees for the purchase of firework services was made by Commissioner Spooner and a second by Commissioner Braswell. All in favor, motion passed.

The CDBG DR project is ongoing. Letters are being prepared for the 87 property owners for acquisition of right of way. There will be a 90-day turnaround period for acquisition, this will put the bidding date around October 1. This will allow some extra time for the USACE to provide a response on approval of paving the south end of Galilee Church Road.

There was no action on the CDBG MIT Project (Hebrew Road Bridge Replacement).

A meeting was held with Ashley Abercrombie of ACCG and Weston Cox of LGRMS to discuss the cost of property and liability claims the county has submitted over the past five years, exceeding the cost of our premium. Things that can help with our costs are various training seminars, a safety action plan, safety meetings, and the appointment of a safety coordinator. County Manager Granger stated she, Bobby Aiken, and Richard Adams would attend the training seminars and establish a safety program.

The Economic Development Authority requested renting the office space currently occupied by the Presbyterian church. The church will vacate by June 1. County Manager Granger recommended a rental rate of $250 per month with the tenant responsible for all utilities (water, sewer, power, pest control, internet, phone, etc.) and any upgrades (painting, flooring, minor repairs) to the space. A motion to offer the office building to the EDA at $250 per month with them setting up and paying all utilities and them providing any needed upgrades (painting, flooring) was made by Commissioner Braswell and a second by Commissioner Brenda Williams. All in favor, motion passed.

New Business

County Manager Granger discussed the following matters:

Selection of Provider for Auditing Services – Three quotes were received as follows: CKH $38,798; Mauldin & Jenkins, $37,000; Grimsley & Associates, $50,000. After reviewing the quotes, a motion to accept the quote from Mauldin & Jenkins was made by Commissioner Braswell with a second by Commissioner Spooner. All in favor, motion passed.

Office Wall Repairs – The north exterior wall of the Courthouse Annex (Shingler Law) is experiencing water seepage from rain events causing the sheetrock, which was installed directly on the bricks without a barrier, to get wet. The proposed repair is to seal the outer wall by applying a stucco finish; the interior will require removal of the sheetrock and a sealant applied to the bricks to prevent moisture buildup. One quote was provided in the amount of $5,730. A motion to approve the quote was made by Chairman Williams with a second by Commissioner Brenda Williams. All in favor, motion passed.

Board of Elections Appointment – The Board of Elections requested the appointment Ms. Shandora Hopkins to their board. A motion to approve the appointment was made by Commissioner Brenda Williams with a second by Commissioner Braswell. All in favor, motion passed.

Intangible Tax Collection – Tax Commissioner Leslie Johnson has notified us the duty of collecting intangible taxes could be transferred to the Clerk of Superior Court. Court Clerk Earlene Bramlett has agreed to perform this duty; the funds will be transferred to the county with her other monthly fees submitted, effective June 1, 2025. A motion to move the responsibility of collecting the intangible tax from the Tax Commissioner to the Superior Court Clerk was made by Chairman Williams with a second by Commissioner Braswell. All in favor, motion passed.

Request for Budget Amendment – County Manager Granger informed the board the M&O Budget had exceeded expenses in several departments due to the last cost of living increase for all employees that was given January 1, 2025. A motion to amend the budget was given by Commissioner Braswell with a second by Commissioner Brenda Williams. All in favor, motion passed. County Manager Granger also stated one more budget work session was scheduled for Thursday, May 29 at 10 a.m. to finalize all funds. There will also be a Public Hearing and Called Meeting to adopt the budget at 6 p.m. the same day.

ACCG Roth Resolution – Regional Retirement Representative, Ron Rowe, provided documentation on the addition of a Roth IRA to the current retirement plan and recommended adoption. A motion to add this enhancement to the current retirement plan was made by Chairman Williams with a second by Commissioner Spooner; all in favor, motion passed.

Survival Flight Contract Renewal – We have completed one year of Emergency Medical Services provided by Survival Flight, with no issues raised. A motion to renew the contract with a 3% increase in annual cost, or $772,500, was made by Commissioner Braswell with a second by Commissioner Spooner. All in favor, motion passed.

LMIG SAP – The Safety Action Plan is additional LMIG funding that pays for costs associated with Off System roadways by replacing raised pavement markers, center lines, edge lines, and signage. GDOT has provided a data driven crash summary of our roads to select from. County Manager Granger will determine a list of roads in need of the upgrades and work with Stacy Watkins for cost analysis and bidding the project. The deadline is June 4, 2025. A motion to approve selection of the roadways and submit to GDOT was made by Commissioner Braswell and a second by Commissioner Spooner. All in favor, motion passed.

Floating Local Option Sales Tax (FLOST) – County Manager Granger stated she would contact the mayor and city manager to set up a date to discuss the method of splitting proceeds of FLOST. The collection of FLOST would have to be approved by the voters in November 2025.

Bass Tournament – The Lakeside Bass Tournament was held on May 3 at Reynolds Landing. A total of 29 boats participated with approximately $10,000 in prize money paid out in places 1 - 6. The winning team was Scott Evans and Matthew Evans.

Fish Pond Drain – County Manager Granger provided one quote in the amount of $8,000 for spraying Fish Pond Drain. Adding additional areas around bridges on both paved and dirt roads is an additional $7,500. The giant reed on John Emory Trawick Road will be an additional $500, for a grand total of $16,000. A motion to approve the spraying was made by Commissioner Spooner with a second by Commissioner Braswell. All in favor, motion passed.

Library Board Appointments – The Southwest Georgia Regional Library Board requested the appointment of Debbie Clark as a replacement for Marie Godwin, effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2028. A motion to appoint Ms. Clark was made by Commissioner Spooner with a second by Commissioner Braswell; all in favor, motion passed. A second request by the Library Board was to appoint Kathy Reese to replace Monroe Bonner, effect July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2028. A motion to appoint Ms. Reese was made by Commissioner Braswell with a second by Commissioner Spooner. All in favor, motion passed.

Commissioner Brenda Williams stated she had incorrectly paid taxes on property for several years and requested a refund. Commissioner Spooner requested figures on what was paid and then reimburse Commissioner Williams. A motion to reimburse Mrs. Williams was made by Commissioner Spooner with a second by Chairman Williams. Commissioner Brenda Williams abstained, all others in favor, motion passed.

Executive Session

A motion to end the Regular Session and enter into Executive Session for a personnel matter was made by Commissioner Brenda Williams; a second was made by Commissioner Braswell. All in favor, motion passed.

A motion to end the Executive Session and enter into Regular Session was made by Commissioner Spooner with a second by Commissioner Braswell. All in favor, motion passed.

County Manager Contract – A motion to extend the employment contract for one year, retroactive to January 1, 2025, was made by Chairman Williams. A second was made by Commissioner Spooner. All in favor, motion passed.

Adjournment

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with a motion by Commissioner Brenda Williams and a second by Commissioner Braswell. All in favor, motion passed.