Highlands County
Hospital District Board of Commissioners
February 26, 2026, Regular Meeting
MINUTES

The Highlands County Hospital District Board of Commissioners met at 1:32pm on Thursday, February 26, 2026, at the Highlands County Commissioner's Board Room. Notice of the Regular Meeting was published in the Highlands News Sun on February 15, 2026. The notice is filed in the Board's meeting file.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Victor Divietro, Dean Gerber, Dusty Johnson, Jeff Roth

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Katie Wilson

OTHERS PRESENT: Bert Harris – Swaine, Harris & Wohl, PA; John Davis – Wicks, Brown, Williams, CPA; Julie Fowler – CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP; Gail Escobar- Clerk; Tonya Marshall - Community Programs; Carmen Alvarez with Jones Walker via TEAMS; members of the public.

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 1:36 pm by Chairman Gerber.

II. INVOCATON AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Mr. Roth led the pledge of allegiance and gave the invocation.

III. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC
No comments were given.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
MOTION: Mr. Johnson made a motion seconded by Mr. Divietro to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 20, 2025. Upon roll call, all Members voted aye. The motion carried.

V. ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT
John Davis of Wicks, Brown, Williams & Co presented the financial statement ending December 2025 which reflected investments updated through January 31, 2026, cash flow through December 31, 2025, check register through first quarter ending December 31, 2025, brokerage statements updated through January 31, 2026. Also presented was the reissued compilation report for year ending September 30, 2025. Mr. Davis noted a payment received from HCA (HRMC) which should not have been made, that is reflected on both reports as a liability of $331,200.00. Also, a refund of the sales tax of $11,200.00 will be requested from the Florida Department of Revenue once the District has paid back the payment to HCA.

MOTION: Mr. Divietro made a motion seconded by Mr. Johnson to accept the accountant's report as presented. Upon roll call, all Members voted aye. The motion carried.

VI. APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF INVOICES

MOTION: Mr. Divietro made a motion seconded by Mr. Roth to approve payment of invoices for Highlands News Sun – 106.22; Swaine, Harris, & Wohl – 8,850.00; Wicks, Brown, Williams & Co. –1,975.00; CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP – 5,013.323; Jones Walker, LLP – 45,564.00; and HCA Florida Highlands Hospital – 331,200.00 for a total of $392,708.55, and also, CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP – $10,026.67 as presented by the Clerk. Upon roll call, all Members voted aye. The motion carried.

VII. APPROVAL OF AUDIT

Julie Fowler, Signing Director with Clifton Larson Allen, LLP, presented the review of the audit ending September 30, 2025. She reviewed the auditor's report with there being no findings or areas of concern that are reported.

MOTION: Mr. Johnson made a motion and Mr. Divietro seconded the motion to accept the auditor's report and to authorize the board chair and accountant to sign the management representation letter. Upon roll call, all Members voted aye. The motion carried.

VIII. HRMC REPORT

No report given.

IX. ELECTION OF 2026 BOARD OFFICERS

MOTION: Mr. Divietro made a motion seconded by Mr. Johnson to nominate Dean Gerber as Chairman, Victor Divietro as Vice-Chairman, and Gail Escobar as Clerk/Treasurer. Upon roll call, all Members voted aye. The motion carried.

Mr. Divietro initially nominated Mr. Roth as Vice-Chairman, but Mr. Roth had to decline since his position of employment does prevent him from being a signee on organization's financial accounts.

X. APPROVAL OF HEALTH SERVICES GRANT TIMELINE 2026-2027

The Board reviewed the grant timeline dates presented by the Clerk. The May meeting is scheduled for May 28, 2026.

MOTION: Mr. Johnson made a motion seconded by Mr. Divietro to approve the grant timeline dates as presented. Upon roll call, all Members voted aye. The motion carried.

- March 6, 2026 — Electronic distribution of grant application
- April 6, 2026 — Submission of Applications with District Clerk
- Schedule if needed — Grant Application Review meeting
- May 4, 2026 — Submission of supplemental information (if requested)
- May 28, 2026 — Regular meeting at 1:30pm – determine surplus funds and make grant recommendations

XI. BUSINESS RELATED TO SALE OF HOSPITAL

Proposed Legislation
Mr. Harris stated that on yesterday, February 25, 2026, the Florida House passed HB 4087 related to Highlands County Hospital District, 116-0.

The bill will go to the Senate for final passage. Appreciation was expressed to Representative Tuck who provided assistance in this part of the process.

Property Valuation
Weaver and Tidwell should almost be completed with the appraisal of the hospital which was proposed to take 6 weeks.

Next Steps
Mr. Harris stated that all due diligence is expected to be completed by the time the bill is signed into law. There will be requirements for public participation and posting of information related to the sale will be required.

XII. LEGAL COUNSEL
No additional business was introduced.

XIII. OTHER BUSINESS
No other business was introduced.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT
Next regular meeting is set for Thursday, May 28, 2026. Chairman Gerber adjourned the meeting at 1:48 pm.

Dean W Gerber

Dean W. Gerber, Chairman

Gail Escobar

Gail Escobar, Clerk