Highlands County
Hospital District Board of Commissioners
May 8, 2026, Special Meeting
MINUTES

The Highlands County Hospital District Board of Commissioners met at 1:30pm on Thursday, May 8, 2026 at the Highlands County Commissioner's Board Room. Notice of the Special Meeting was published in the Highlands News-Sun on April 28, 2026. The notice is filed in the Board's meeting file.

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

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: none

OTHERS PRESENT: Bert Harris – Swaine, Harris & Wohl, PA; Gail Escobar- Clerk; Henry Capote, CEO HCA Florida Highlands Hospital – HCA Florida Highlands Hospital; Myla Reizen and Jennifer Ungru with Jones Walker, LLP via TEAMS; members of the public

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 1:30 pm by Chairman Gerber.

II. INVOCATON AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Roth led the pledge and gave the invocation.

III. APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF INVOICES

MOTION: Mr. Roth made a motion seconded by Mr. Divietro to approve payment of invoices for Highlands News-Sun – 65.80 and Florida Department of State – 128.38 as presented by the Clerk. Upon roll call, all Members voted aye. The motion carried.

IV. EXPANSION OF THE DISTRICT"S WEBSITE

Mr. Harris stated that he has been in communication with Laurie Hurner, County Administrator, regarding the significant amount of documents that will be required to be made available to the public before the time for public hearings.

V. AUTHORIZE AND CONTRACT FOR THE ANALYSIS OF ITEMS FOR THE VALUATION OF THE HOSPITAL IN THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT BOARD

Mr. Harris explained that an amendment to the Weaver and Tidwell, LLP contract is being considered to include language covering an analysis of the value of the of fixed assets, including, but not limited to, personal property at fair market value and personal property at book value.

MOTION: Mr. Roth made a motion seconded by Ms. Wilson to allow Chairman Gerber, Mr. Harris, and Jones Walker to amend the statement of work for the Weaver and Tidwell LLP contract to include an analysis of the value of the hospital's fixed assets on an hourly basis. This will include, but not be limited to, an analysis and opinion of the fair market value and book value of the personal property. Upon roll call, all Members voted aye. The motion carried.

Chairman Gerber asked if the valuation will be completed before the regular meeting on May 28, 2026 to which Mr. Harris and Ms. Reizen stated that they do not expect it to be completed by that date.

VI. AUTHORIZE AND CONTRACT FOR DRAFTING WHEN APPROPRIATE OF ALL DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THE POTENTIAL LEASE OR SALE OF THE DISTRICT'S HOSPITAL

Mr. Harris stated that they are looking for authorization for himself and Jones Walker to begin the drafting of the appropriate documents and strategies so they will be ready for discussion by this Board at the appropriate time.

MOTION: Mr. Divietro made a motion seconded by Mr. Roth to allow Mr. Harris, and Jones Walker to draft the appropriate documents that would be related to the potential lease or sale of the District's hospital at the appropriate time. Upon roll call, all Members voted aye. The motion carried.

VII. DISCUSSIONS AND ACTIONS REGARDING THE PROCESS AND ALL OTHER MATTERS RELATED TO THE POTENTIAL LEASE OR SALE OF THE DISTRICT'S HOSPITAL

No additional discussions were required.

VIII. UPDATE ON STATUS OF LOCAL BILL

Jennifer Ungru stated that the bill had passed the house and senate and would soon be transmitted to the Governor for signature. She will let the Board know as soon as it is sent to the Governor.

IX. APPROVAL OF ACTIONS, WORK, AND TIMELINE OF ALL MATTERS REASONABLE OR NEEDED FOR THE POTENTIAL SALE OR LEASE OF THE DISTRICT'S HOSPITAL

No discussion needed as of to date.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Gerber adjourned the meeting at 1:50 pm.

Next regular meeting set for Thursday, May 28, 2026.

Dean W. Gerber

Dean W. Gerber, Chairman

Gail Escobar

Gail Escobar, Clerk