A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MARCH 24, 2026

The Lake County Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, March 24, 2026 at 9:00 a.m., in the County Commission Chambers, Lake County Administration Building, Tavares, Florida. Commissioners present at the meeting were: Leslie Campione, Chairman; Sean Parks, Vice Chairman; Anthony Sabatini; Kirby Smith; and Timothy Morris. Others present were: Jennifer Barker, County Manager; Melanie Marsh, County Attorney; Misty Spahn, Executive Office Manager, County Manager's Office; Gary J. Cooney, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller; Kristy Mullane, Chief Financial Officer; and Josh Pearson, Deputy Clerk.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Commr. Campione welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Pastor Michael Watkins, with Friendship CME Church in the City of Tavares, gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA UPDATE

Ms. Jennifer Barker, County Manager, stated that there were no updates to the agenda.

MINUTES APPROVAL

On a motion by Commr. Sabatini, seconded by Commr. Parks and carried unanimously by a vote of 5-0, the Board approved the minutes for the BCC meetings of February 3, 2026 (Regular Meeting) and February 10, 2026 (Regular Meeting) as presented.

CITIZEN QUESTION AND COMMENT PERIOD

Commr. Campione remarked that anyone who had joined the meeting through Zoom using their phone may press *9 to virtually raise their hand, and that anyone participating online could click the raise hand button to identify that they wished to speak. She added that everyone would have three minutes to speak.

Mr. Greg Raffel, a resident of Lake County, recalled that he had previously requested assistance in looking at traffic in Four Corners. He expressed concerns for traffic, and relayed his understanding that Mr. Jeff Cagan would like to sell his roads to the County and that one lane roads in the area were continuously backing up traffic, noting that more housing was being developed. He indicated concerns for traffic at United States (U.S.) Highway 192 and Town Center Boulevard, in addition to Cagan Crossings Boulevard and U.S. Highway 27, and said that he would appreciate any attention which could be given from the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) and the Lake County Sheriff's Office (LCSO), opining that there were many illegal left turns from Town Center Boulevard onto U.S. Highway 192.

Commr. Parks said that this area was growing rapidly and that there was much traffic. He mentioned building roads regionally to alleviate some of this traffic, including State Road (SR) 516, Wellness Way Boulevard and Schofield Road. He opined that much traffic was locally generated, and he expressed concern for the stop sign at the entrance to the Walmart and Lowe's, opining that something had to be redone.

Commr. Campione stated that the County had revamped its Public Works Department and that they had individuals who were specifically overseeing each district; therefore, she opined that it was time to review this and see what they might be able to do.

Ms. Barker relayed that Mr. Raffel could meet with Mr. Mike Olka, noting that Mr. Olka was in charge of the Public Works division for South Lake.

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER'S CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion by Commr. Sabatini, seconded by Commr. Parks and carried unanimously by a vote of 5-0, the Board approved the Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller's Consent Agenda, Items 1 and 2, as follows:

List of Warrants

Notice is hereby provided of warrants paid prior to this meeting, pursuant to Chapter 136.06 (1) of the Florida Statutes, which shall be incorporated into the Minutes as attached Exhibit A and filed in the Board Support Division of the Clerk's Office.

Lands Available List

Notice is hereby provided of having received a list of property placed on the Lands Available List.

COUNTY MANAGER'S CONSENT AGENDA

Commr. Campione said that she had comment cards for Tab 16, and that she anticipated that there would be discussion on it.

Commr. Morris commented that for Tab 14, he wanted the public to understand that they were committing over $800,000 per year for 20 years for the end of SR 516. He said that he did not like committing funding for someone who would be sitting in his seat at a later date, and that this item regarded the trail which turned into roundabouts.

Ms. Barker clarified that it regarded intersection improvements at the interchange to the new SR 516.

Commr. Campione relayed that these were long-term intersection improvements which had been in the works for a number of years.

On a motion by Commr. Sabatini, seconded by Commr. Parks and carried unanimously by a vote of 5-0, the Board approved the Consent Agenda, Tabs 3 through 15, pulling Tab 16 to the regular agenda, as follows:

PROCLAMATIONS

Recommend approval of Proclamation 2026-20 designating April 19-25, 2026, as Lake Libraries Week in Lake County.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Information Technology

Recommend approval:

1. Of an amendment to the contract with the Agenda and Meeting Management Software Vendor to include website hosting, development services, and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) enhancements for the main county website (lakecountyfl.gov).

2. To authorize the Office of Procurement Services to execute all supporting documentation.

The estimated annual fiscal impact of $99,769 (expenditure) is within, and will not exceed, the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget with a three percent increase starting in Calendar Year 2027.

Management and Budget

Recommend approval of the First Amendment to the Subrecipient Agreement between the City of Fruitland Park and Lake County to allow the balance of $360,020 to be utilized for the planning and design costs of a new wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). Commission District 5.

There is no fiscal impact.

Procurement Services

Recommend approval to declare the items listed on the attached inventory as surplus, authorize their removal from the County's official fixed asset records, and authorize the Office of Procurement Services Director to execute all necessary documentation.

The fiscal impact cannot be determined at this time (revenue).

PUBLIC SAFETY

Fire Rescue

Recommend approval:

1. To increase the expenditure limits of vendor pool Contracts 22-730A-K for Fire Equipment, Supplies, and Services with All Safe Industries, Inc. (Louisville, KY), Bennett Fire Products Company, LLC (Woodstock, GA), Fisher Scientific (Tampa, FL), Henry Schein, Inc. (Melville, NY), Life-Assist, Inc. (Rancho Cordova, CA), Medline Industries, LP (Northfield, IL), MES Service Company, LLC.(f./k/a Municipal Emergency Services, Inc.) (Sandy Hook, CT), Municipal Equipment Company, LLC (Orlando, FL), North America Fire Equipment, Co., Inc. (Decatur, AL), TechnicalRescue.com, Inc. (Cooper City, FL), and Ten-8 Fire Equipment, Inc. (Bradenton, FL) from an estimated amount of $1,100,000 to an estimated amount of $2,000,000; and

2. To authorize the Office of Procurement Services to execute all supporting documentation.

The estimated fiscal impact is $900,000 (expenditure) and will not exceed available funding in each fiscal year's approved budget.

Public Safety Support

Recommend approval of Calabrese Drive and Denise Way pursuant to Lake County Code Article V - Uniform Street Addressing System Sec. 18-103(g).

The fiscal impact is $300 (revenue). Commission District 4.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Solid Waste

Recommend approval:

1. Of Amendment No. 1 to the Second Amended and Restated Exclusive Franchise Agreement to Contract 13-0303D with FCC Environmental Services Florida, LLC for Collection Area 1; and

2. To authorize the Office of Procurement Services to execute all supporting documents.

There is no fiscal impact. Commission District 3 and 4.

Recommend approval:

1. To award Contract 26-504 to Toter, LLC (Statesville, NC) to provide Fully Automatic Bear-Resistant Trash Carts; and

2. To authorize the Office of Procurement Services to execute all supporting documentation.

The estimated annual fiscal impact is $200,000 (expenditure) and is within, and will not exceed, the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget. Future expenditures will not exceed the available funding in any Fiscal Year Budget.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Facilities Management

Recommend approval:

1. Of the award for RFQ Q2026-00036 with Advanced Roofing, Inc. (Sanford, FL) for the Judicial Center North Wing Reroofing Project; and

2. To authorize the Office of Procurement Services to execute all supporting documentation.

The fiscal impact of $340,741.00 (expenditure) is within, and will not exceed, the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget. Commission District 3.

Recommend approval:

1. Of the award for RFQ Q2026-00049 with RMS Orlando Inc. (Orlando, FL) for the Library Services Reroof project; and

2. To authorize the Office of Procurement Services to execute all supporting documentation.

The fiscal impact of $133,560 (expenditure) and is within, and will not exceed, the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget. Commission District 3.

Public Works

Recommend retroactive approval:

1. Of Contract 25-743C proposal for the repair of the sinkhole and associated roadway damage on Empire Church Road; Recommend approval:

2. To adopt Unanticipated Revenue Resolution (URR) 2026-30 to accept and appropriate $533,577 to the Infrastructure Sales Tax Fund for repairs on Empire Church Road;

3. Of a budget transfer in the amount of $1,000,000 from Facilities Capital Buildings to Public Works Capital Infrastructure Construction;

4. Of a budget transfer in the amount of $1,000,000 from Gas Tax Reserves for Operations to Infrastructure Construction; and

5. To authorize the Office of Procurement Services to execute all supporting documentation related to the contract for road repairs; and

6. Approval for the Chairman to execute the required Right of Entries for the two adjacent property owners, which include indemnification language.

The estimated fiscal impact is $2,533,576.44. Commission District 1.

Recommend approval of a Construction Agreement with the Central Florida Expressway Authority (CFX) for the County to reimburse CFX for a portion of the right-of-way acquisition, design, permitting, and construction associated with CR 455, Cook Road, and Schofield located between U.S. 27 and S.R. 429 as part of the Lake/Orange Expressway Project in the amount of $16,348,714.42, spread over 20 years. The first payment of $817,436.12 is scheduled for approximately October 15, 2027, with annual payments of $817,435.70 thereafter through October 15, 2046.

The fiscal impact is $817,436.12 (expenditure) in Fiscal Year 2028 and $817,435.70 annually through Fiscal Year 2046 (expenditure). Commission District 1.

Recommend approval of a budget transfer of $1,567,863 from the General Fund Resurfacing Reserves to the General Fund Public Works Resurfacing account to complete the Fiscal Year 2026 Phase II program.

The fiscal impact is $1,567,863 (expenditure).

TAB 16: GREEN MOUNTAIN SCENIC OVERLOOK AND TRAILHEAD SECOND OBSERVATION TOWER

Ms. Barker stated that this item regarded the proposed contract for approval of the construction of an extension to the Green Mountain Scenic Overlook and Trailhead tower. She

recalled that this was originally brought to the Board for consideration in 2022, and that a grant was sought, noting that in May 2022 the Board had approved moving forward with the application for a grant from the National Scenic Byway Program in the amount of $650,000. She elaborated that this grant was to be matched with Tourist Development Tax (TDT) funding in the amount of $650,000, and that the County won the award for the grant; therefore, staff worked with a consultant and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to create the design and engineering plans. She recalled that the Board approved receiving the grant in July 2024, and that construction at that time was $3.2 million; additionally, the final design and engineering plans were approved by FDOT, and when the County originally went to bid, the lowest bidder was $2.8 million. She relayed that the bidder could not secure a bond, and that the County took this project back out to bid, which was open in July 2025, noting that they had one responsive bidder at $6.7 million; however, staff had rejected this bid and opted to rebid again. She said that the second amendment to the funding approved by the Board to extend the construction due date was approved, which extended the construction deadline to 2028. She stated that they had three responsive bidders to their third bid with the lowest bid at slightly over $4.2 million, and that this was the construction contract before the Board for approval.

Commr. Campione asked how much of this was the grant versus the match.

Ms. Barker clarified that $4.2 million was the total construction cost, that $650,000 would be coming from the grant, that $650,000 would be coming from the TDT match, and that the remaining funding would come from other sources with around $2 million being the penny sales tax, as well as about $900,000 coming from the parks impact fee south district.

Commr. Campione opined that it would be interesting to know visitor numbers, how the tower was currently used, and the reasoning behind wanting to have the tower be higher.

Ms. Angela Harrold, Director for the Office of Parks and Trails, explained that they had about 50,000 visitors based on counter data in the last year; furthermore, they had two large cycling events which used the location each year. She said that they hosted 5Ks, 10Ks and other cycling events, and that in the past weekend they had about 1,000 visitors, noting that it was a heavily used park. She opined that it would be nice to have a draw on the Lake County side since the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive was on the other side in Orange County, and she also relayed that they had many birders. She recalled that the Florida Wildflower Foundation recently did an exhibit garden for native plants with a local Eagle Scout project to create a water fountain, and that they had several amenities that people visited, noting that it was a major trailhead between the Cities of Winter Garden and Mount Dora.

Commr. Campione opined that this information was important to consider in the context of the Lake County brand of “Real Florida, Real Close,” and the fact that they had a focus on a master trail plan and had completed the Lake Apopka Loop Trail. She did not think that the trees were as high when the tower had opened, and relayed her understanding that one could see further out; however, the trees had grown and created a different look there. She mentioned that the county had the Citrus Tower at one point, which was an iconic symbol and destination point, and that when the subject tower was proposed, it gave one a completely new perspective on Lake County

with looking out over Lake Apopka and green space, as well as seeing the growth on one side and the natural landscape on the other side. She opined that it was an ecotourism attractor, and that this could potentially be a replacement iconic location that people associated with Lake County; furthermore, she also saw it as a major trailhead, which was a cornerstone of their trail system.

The Chairman opened the floor for public comment.

Mr. Greg Gensheimer, with Green Mountain Scenic Byway Inc., said that the scenic byway program was first established in 2004 and that it was a State designated scenic byway which ran from the City of Winter Garden to the City of Mount Dora. He relayed that once this designation was received, the charge was to preserve, protect and enhance the resources in the corridor. He said that they wanted to be proactive by saving green spaces and creating recreational opportunities, and that they had helped the County purchase Ferndale Preserve. He stated that economic development was part of what they were trying to do, and that they wanted to create something which would attract people so that they would leave more money in the communities. He discussed efforts related to the trails across the north shore of Lake Apopka, noting that a grant required an observation tower. He said that as soon as the tower went up and he saw the trees, he had opined that they needed something larger, and that he had been working on this tower. He listed the following reasons why they should build the tower: all of the funding which came in when they had a trail and a tower; he opined that it would be a draw for everyone in the area; the taller tower could be a way to diversify the tax base with business tax revenue, as well as lowering the county's contributions to the police and pension plans by increasing businesses in the City of Minneola; many people could ride farther on trails with e-bikes and access the tower; there would be 12,000 to 13,000 new dwelling units in the City of Minneola with 4.2 million square feet of commercial; and there was a 2018 economic survey which indicated that riders, walkers and car drivers brought in $1,000 on the surveyed days, noting that over the past two days they would have brought around $2,800. He said that based on the yearly visitors averaged over the last five years, in 2026 they would have slightly over 6,000 bikes and just under 20,000 pedestrians; additionally, there was an increase from around $221,000 in economic impact in 2018 to $550,000. He opined that when looking at bringing in over $500,000 per year without the tower being built, they could essentially have the tower paid off in a couple of years.

Commr. Campione opined that having a destination point increased the opportunities for economic generation; however, she expressed concerns for the cost, questioning if there was a way to do this less expensively and with community participation.

Commr. Parks thanked Mr. Gensheimer for his years of dedication, and he mentioned that that the Green Mountain Scenic Byway was an FDOT designation which had been contemplated years prior for this type of tourism. He opined that the Green Mountain Scenic Byway was part of who they were, and relayed his understanding that it was also part of the parks and trails master plan. He opined that sticking with the plan was important, as well as understanding that they sometimes had to be flexible with issues about cost. He also indicated his understanding that there was a cumulative 1,000 foot elevation change going through that trail, and opined that many people

from all over the state would cycle and participate to receive this kind of training; therefore, they were spending money there.

Commr. Smith asked if Mr. Gensheimer had contacted the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), 1000 Friends of Florida or other conservation groups to help with the cost.

Mr. Gensheimer denied this.

Commr. Smith opined that this would be a good place to start. He then inquired if Mr. Gensheimer thought about doing a fundraiser.

Mr. Gensheimer said that he had not contemplated it, though he had done this previously.

Commr. Morris expressed appreciation for what Mr. Gensheimer had done, and opined that the Board needed to understand that they had infrastructure issues. He opined that he wanted the Board to start working together to fix the road issue, and said that he would like to know if there were any other projects that he did not know about and that there might be an issue with.

Commr. Parks opined that there were some questions about how it could be funded, such as out of TDT at a lower cost, rather than as a penny sales tax project which might come out of roads funding. He questioned if there was a way to look at a cost savings on this, and he recalled that he had asked Ms. Melanie Marsh, County Attorney, if the County could build this themselves.

Ms. Marsh explained that under Section 255.20, Florida Statutes, the County was required to competitively bid any project with a cost of $300,000 or more; however, there were exceptions to this, including a self-performance option. She clarified that this was allowed under Section 255.20, though there was a process that the County had to go through which would include having to publish a notice 21 days before holding a public hearing; furthermore, they would have to identify the following: what the project was; the components; the scope; the estimated cost, accounting for all performance; employee compensation and benefits; equipment costs; maintenance; insurance costs; and the cost of direct materials, including materials purchased by the government, probably under sales tax recovery programs, plus a factor of 20 percent for management overhead and other indirect costs. She elaborated that after they published this for 21 days, they would hold a public hearing, at which time they would discuss these items; additionally, it would allow any qualified contractor or vendor to step forward and explain why they thought they could do this better or faster. She commented that the complicating factor with this project was that they had Federal funding, and that the contract for Federal funding required a competitive solicitation. She stated that if the Board wanted to move in this direction for the project, the County would have to go back to FDOT and see if they would allow self-performance. She said that other items that they would have to consider as part of this would be if they had the staff resources to oversee a project of this nature, noting that they would have to have a general contractor on staff, which they currently did not have. She mentioned that they would have to review staffing resources, and that they could still bid out subcontractors, etc., though all of this would have to be discussed with FDOT to see if they would allow it under the Federal grant provisions.

Commr. Parks opined that this could possibly work if they went to the State, opining that the State would likely be more understanding of this approach than the Federal Government. He also opined that there could be a chance with many projects moving forward with this approach, and that it was possibly worth asking the State to look at this or the County rebidding it again.

Commr. Campione asked about rebidding it first to see if it could come in lower.

Commr. Parks opined that they could do both.

Commr. Smith stated that he liked the idea of the County seeing if they could do it themselves, and he also implored Green Mountain Scenic Byway Inc. to look at the SJRWMD and other conservation groups for fundraising opportunities, noting that he would like to see this not be done 100 percent at the cost of citizens of Lake County who were forced to do this.

Commr. Campione opined that TDT was appropriate.

Commr. Smith agreed that some of it was appropriate, though opined that the TDT also had a myriad of other items that it did to bring in many more people than what this tower would do.

Commr. Campione mentioned the county's Real Florida, Real Close brand, and pointed out that Lake County was the hilly part of the State of Florida. She expressed support for TDT being used toward sporting events and venues; however, she opined that this item went toward their identity because it brought together a place where families and people of all ages could experience what made Lake County so special. She said that she liked the idea of doing fundraising and seeing if they could get the public involved, and questioned if Mr. Gensheimer would consider spearheading this to see if they could get people to contribute. She also questioned whether a private entity could have their name on the tower, and stated that there was possibly a local company who would consider doing this. She opined that they had to explore this and see if they could make this an endeavor that was also on the private and public sides as willing participants. She added that in the meantime, the County could explore if they could do this less expensively if they could rebid it, or look at the possibility of overseeing it. She also wondered about great welders who taught or were coming out of Lake Technical College (Lake Tech) who had great experience working with the materials which would be used on a project like this.

Ms. Harrold showed an image of the property with the existing tower and how much higher it would go. She mentioned that there was COR-TEN steel and an elevator which increased the price of the project, and that staff had done much earthwork to prep the site; therefore, this would not be included in the construction bid.

Commr. Campione requested to show a video regarding the location.

Commr. Morris said that he reviewed the bid documents and opined that everything was done right, noting that there were three bids, and he was unsure what going out for another bid would do other than take time and possibly have an increased price. He opined that it was a foregone conclusion that it needed to be done, and he made a motion to approve this item.

Commr. Sabatini seconded the motion.

Ms. Cindy Newton, a resident of Lake County, opined that cost was an issue, and that fundraising would lower the cost; additionally, she mentioned possibly rebidding. She opined that

with the results of the election, they did not know what was occurring with sales tax and gas tax, and that more tourist funding to diversify their tax base was important.

There being no one else who wished to address the Board regarding this matter, the Chairman closed the floor for public comment.

Commr. Morris said that any funding which could be raised to reduce the project price would be greatly appreciated.

Commr. Parks stated that he would connect with Mr. Gensheimer regarding fundraising opportunities on a statewide level.

Commr. Smith relayed his understanding that if this item was approved on the current day, it meant that the County would be 100 percent responsible for the funding and that no fundraising efforts would need to be done. He expressed opposition to this item without understanding that they would go to their conservation partners who could be willing to help, and said that he was also against it if they did not look for fundraising opportunities. He commented that he was surprised that Commissioner Morris made a motion to approve this item because they had much occurring with roads, as well with other incomplete trails which could help with economic development and which had to be done first. He expressed appreciation to Green Mountain Scenic Byway Inc.'s efforts, opining that there could be more effort done. He recalled that this item first came to the Board as a $1.2 million project which had increased to around $4 million, and opined that they could do a design build at $2 million to see if it worked. He opined that the Board needed to fail this motion and look at other opportunities for fundraising and other conservation partners who may be willing to help.

Commr. Campione agreed with Commissioner Smith, opining that it was worthy of going back out and seeing whether they could reduce the price. She added that she also liked the idea of reaching out and seeing if they could get a private corporate partner, as well as support from people who wanted to see this come to fruition. She opined that they should do this before moving forward with approving what was on the current agenda.

Commr. Sabatini said that he would be agreeable with approving it as it was, opining that a corporate sponsorship or someone wanting naming rights did not preclude the Board from moving forward on the current day. He expressed support for this project, opining that it was unique and that the bidding process was followed closely. He opined that the price would only increase with the current economy, and that this was the most unique part of the State of Florida. He opined that the County needed to start building its brand, and that they needed to have an identity and lean into the idea that it was the best place to live. He opined that this elevated ridgeline was the most significant geographical feature of the county, along with the lakes, which was signified in this location. He opined that it was important to have an identity and brand because he wanted people who believed in the values of the people of Lake County, including environmental conservation, to want to be motivated to live there. He opined that one singular geographical highlight or investment could carry the identity of the county, and that the lakes, the City of Mount Dora, this area, and the Green Swamp were some of the features that gave them a unique identity.

On a motion by Commr. Morris, seconded by Commr. Sabatini and carried by a vote of 3-2, the Board approved Contract 26-411 with S.A. Casey Construction, Inc. (Orlando, FL) for the Green Mountain Scenic Overlook and Trailhead - Second Observation Tower, and to authorize the Office of Procurement Services to execute all supporting documentation.

Commr. Campione and Commr. Smith voted no.

Commr. Campione clarified that this did not preclude them from trying to get fundraising done, and asked if she could partner with Mr. Gensheimer on this.

Commr. Sabatini said that he liked the sponsorship idea. He also opined that fiscal conservatism was good, though stated that this issue was too important for him in the balancing test for how he would vote for these things.

Commr. Parks hoped that the Board would support getting staff to look into the statutory framework that Ms. Marsh had discussed to start doing this on their own with roads and smaller projects.

Ms. Harrold clarified that the County had engineers, but that they did not have a general contractor.

Commr. Campione related that the County Manager could understand to look at any project with regards to if it was something that the County might be able to do themselves under the statute. She opined that it was a good approach for this to always be a possibility for capital projects.

Commr. Parks opined that the County could end up seeing significant savings if they were able to do roads and projects at all levels.

Ms. Harrold clarified that for facilities, their smaller capital projects such as roof replacements were staff driven. She added that they could look at larger projects as well.

Mr. Gensheimer thanked everyone for believing in him and this project, noting that he would begin making phone calls.

VILLAGES FIRE ASSESSMENT PRESENTATION

Ms. Barker requested to move Tab 20 to the current time.

Mr. Kenny Blocker, Villages Community Development District (CDD) District Manager, said that he was present to discuss consolidating the fire assessment under Lake County, noting that The Villages Public Safety Department also served residents in the Town of Lady Lake, the City of Fruitland Park, and Lake County. He said that administratively, it would involve a process of three hearings, mailings, and all the different municipalities in the county going through the same process. He opined that this was government efficiency and that it made sense to deal with one entity, noting that it would be under the uniform collection method.

Commr. Morris asked about if someone did not pay.

Mr. Blocker clarified that it was not their intent to go back to Lake County to ensure that they were paid, and that this was why they would use the uniform collection method. He added that there was language regarding how they could go back and receive funding from people who did not pay, though they would let the attorneys address this through the interlocal agreement to ensure that Lake County was not liable.

Commr. Campione relayed her understanding that it would basically be the same backend regarding if someone did not pay their non-ad valorem assessment.

Ms. Barker confirmed this.

Commr. Campione opined that this was a great example of efficiencies and a smart way to do these things.

On a motion by Commr. Smith, seconded by Commr. Sabatini and carried unanimously by a vote of 5-0, the Board approved to move forward with consolidating the fire assessment under Lake County.

PUBLIC HEARING: ORDINANCE 2026-12 BURN BAN

Commr. Campione recalled that the Board had discussed changing this language so that they could be more flexible.

Ms. Marsh placed the proposed ordinance on the floor for reading by title only as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA; AMENDING SECTION 10.5-75, LAKE COUNTY CODE, ENTITLED BURN BAN; REVISING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR IMPOSITION OF A BURN BAN; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE; PROVIDING FOR FILING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The Chairman opened the public hearing.

There being no one who wished to address the Board regarding this matter, the Chairman closed the public hearing.

On a motion by Commr. Sabatini, seconded by Commr. Parks and carried unanimously by a vote of 5-0, the Board approved Ordinance 2026-12 amending Section 10.5-75, Lake County Code, entitled Burn Ban.

REGULAR AGENDA

ORDINANCE REGARDING RELIEF CONCERNING DECLARED EMERGENCY UNDER CHAPTER 2015-190, LAWS OF FLORIDA

Commr. Parks opined that they were all aware of the erosion of home rule, as well as preemption, in the last couple of years, including the previous year with Senate Bill (SB) 180. He mentioned concerns about using the emergency justifications, hurricanes, and various reasons to limit the County's ability to move forward with good land use planning and everyday business. He relayed that the City of Winter Garden had enacted an ordinance which would basically require someone to come in and say that an undue burden was being placed on them in accordance with SB 180, and that they would have to justify this in front of the Board.

Commr. Campione relayed her understanding that one would have to review this early on, as opposed to the Board not knowing what one perceived.

Commr. Parks opined that the intent was that the Board would never hear about it, and that the Board would know about it upfront with this ordinance.

Ms. Marsh clarified that this would set up a process where someone could bring this to the County before they went to court and tried to declare an ordinance invalid, in which case the County would be able to make individual exceptions. She added that one would have to show that

their property was damaged by one of the listed hurricanes, and that they would have to provide third party evidence of this.

On a motion by Commr. Parks, seconded by Commr. Smith and carried unanimously by a vote of 5-0, the Board approved to advertise this item for a public hearing at the next available meeting.

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH MOUNT DORA REGARDING NORTHEAST CRA EXPANSION

Ms. Marsh recalled that the County had litigation pending with the City of Mount Dora over the expansion of the Community Redevelopment Area (CRA), and that the Board had previously approved two alternate proposals to send to the City to try to resolve the litigation. She said that the first proposal had been a 60/40 split where the City would take certain specified roads, and that the second alternative was a 55/45 split where the County would agree to use its 45 percent toward transportation improvements in and around the CRA. She stated that this had gone to the City Council for consideration, and that they accepted the 55/45 split and made one change to the language to specifically name Limit Avenue and Pine Avenue for consideration of future improvements by the County, though there was no defined deadline, list of roads, or anything else that the County would have to spend this funding on. She recommended that the Board approve this, noting that it would resolve the litigation.

Commr. Campione recalled that the Board had several joint meetings with the City Council, and opined that the focus was on how they could use this as an opportunity to put this funding toward road improvements. She said that she wanted to be clear that the additional language for Limit Avenue and Pine Avenue did not bind them to address those particular roads as opposed to other roads in that area.

Ms. Marsh confirmed this, and clarified that the 55/45 split was for the expansion area incremental revenues; however, the City would also be giving the County back 100 percent of their emergency medical services (EMS) revenues, which were paid for the entire CRA.

Commr. Campione opined that this was a good reason to be supportive, noting that the County would be able to receive additional EMS revenues to go toward ambulance service.

Commr. Smith expressed opposition to this, opining that it was not a CRA item to begin with.

Commr. Campione opined that the County's concern was that a judge would say that it was a legislative determination and therefore would have sided with the City; furthermore, she opined that the Board had to do this.

On a motion by Commr. Sabatini, seconded by Commr. Parks and carried by a vote of 4-1, the Board approved the Interlocal Agreement with the City of Mount Dora Regarding Tax Increment Revenues for the Mount Dora Northeast CRA Expansion.

Commr. Smith voted no.

CONCURRENCE WITH FDOH ADMINISTRATOR APPOINTMENT

Mr. Tommy Carpenter, Assistant County Manager, said that Mr. Aaron Kissler, former Florida Department of Health (FDOH) Administrator, had left in the previous year and became

Polk County's administrator; therefore, in the interim period, Dr. Johnson, from Seminole County, had helped in Lake County until the appointment of a new administrator.

Mr. Mark Lander, Deputy Secretary for FDOH County Health Systems, introduced Mr. Randolph Augustin as the candidate for the next health officer for the Lake County Health Department. He thanked Dr. Johnson for assisting, and he relayed that Mr. Augustin had been through an extensive interview process at the local and State levels. He mentioned Mr. Augustin's ability for partnership building and community building, opining that this would be a benefit for Lake County and the State.

Mr. Augustin stated that he looked forward to this opportunity, and that he spent the last 23 years at the Federal level doing similar work internationally and globally. He relayed that he looked forward to learning about the opportunities to apply the lessons learned.

Commr. Campione welcomed Mr. Augustin, and asked if it could be ensured that he and the Board would have each other's phone numbers. She also opined that it was great that Seminole and Marion Counties were represented at the current meeting because there could be many opportunities for having discussions. She mentioned how integral this was to the community, and that although they were a State agency, it was important that they had open communication and that the County felt that they could reach out to FDOH when there were issues which needed to be addressed, as well as FDOH reaching out to the County and looking for opportunities where the County could help them provide information to the public.

Mr. Augustin related that they looked forward to having an opportunity to meet the Board members individually to understand the priorities, needs and opportunities to support their shared objectives.

Commr. Smith encouraged him to contact the Board members if he wanted to know about anything specific within their districts.

On a motion by Commr. Morris, seconded by Commr. Sabatini and carried unanimously by a vote of 5-0, the Board concurred with the appointment of Mr. Randolph Augustin as the Administrator of the Florida Department of Health in Lake County.

ORDINANCE REGARDING CERTIFIED RECOVERY RESIDENCES

Mr. Mike Fitzgerald, Director for the Office of Planning and Zoning, read the title of the proposed ordinance for advertisement only as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA; CREATING SECTION 3.03.00, LAKE COUNTY CODE, LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, TO BE ENTITLED, CERTIFIED RECOVERY RESIDENCES; AMENDING SECTION 3.01.03, LAKE COUNTY CODE, LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, TO INCLUDE CERTIFIED RECOVERY RESIDENCES AS A PERMITTED USE IN SPECIFIED ZONING DISTRICTS; AMENDING CHAPTER II, LAKE COUNTY CODE, LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, ENTITLED DEFINITIONS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE; PROVIDING FOR FILING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mr. Fitzgerald added that this ordinance would also establish a procedure for staff to follow if someone applied for a reasonable accommodation if they needed a certified recovery residence to be located in a zoning district which it was not permitted in. He stated that they were proposing

to add a definition of “Certified Recovery Residences” to the code pursuant to State mandate, and in accordance with Florida Statutes, along with proposing that “Certified Recovery Residences” would be located in Community Commercial (C-2), Employment Center (C-3) and Planned Commercial (CP) zoning districts; furthermore, this would also include a process for staff to follow for reasonable accommodation if someone needed that certified recovery residence due to a verified disability, and for that certified recovery residence to be located in an alternative zoning district, as well as the timing that staff would follow for this.

Commr. Smith asked that for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance, if one built a ramp and proved that they needed it, and then that resident left, would they have to remove the ramp.

Mr. Fitzgerald did not think that they would make anyone remove anything from their residence, and that a new owner would have the right to remove it on their private property.

Ms. Marsh stated that there was a provision in the proposed ordinance which said that it would be the responsibility of the property owner to remove or correct any nonconforming standard authorized by a grant of a reasonable accommodation once the need ended. She elaborated that if it was nonconforming, the County would ask them to make their property confirming; therefore, the ramp could stay if it was built to code.

Commr. Campione asked if the three districts were the only place where this was permitted.

Mr. Fitzgerald displayed the zoning districts where the County was saying it was an outright permitted use, and said that if one had need of a reasonable accommodation, they would apply for this and propose that it be in a different zoning district.

Commr. Campione relayed her understanding that in other zoning districts, it would be a conditional use and discretionary.

Mr. Fitzgerald confirmed that it would be staff’s discretion and that there would be no requirement for an additional public hearing.

Ms. Marsh added that this would be a situation where if they were in Estate Residential (R-2) zoning and wanted to have a certified residence with someone there who left, then they would be nonconforming and have to cease that use. She mentioned that the other option was that the Board could add to the matrix that it would be a conditional use in any other district, in which case it would have to come back to the Board.

Commr. Campione indicated her understanding that without having the conditional use, staff would be making that decision.

Ms. Marsh confirmed that this was correct under the statutory provision.

Commr. Campione asked if this was because they were required to do it this way.

Ms. Marsh clarified that the County was required to establish a process in which one could request accommodations. She said that she had looked at a couple of jurisdictions, of which some showed certified recovery residences as being allowed in residential zonings, and some did not. She opined that the County was keeping it consistent with how they did assisted living, noting that they tried to match some of their other conditional uses.

Mr. Fitzgerald relayed that staff had also looked at dormitory use.

Commr. Campine said that she was reluctant to put this on staff.

Ms. Marsh commented that when she had checked the State registry, there was only one certified recovery residence in Lake County; furthermore, she did not suspect that they were going to see an influx of these types of uses.

Commr. Campione relayed her understanding that the County was ensuring that there were three locations where one could always have these in C-2, C-3 and CP, which she assumed would be Planned Commercial indicating that one could have this use.

Mr. Fitzgerald confirmed this.

Commr. Campione related that for the others, if it came in only under staff, then this meant that if one wanted to put this in a home in a typical neighborhood, it sounded like it would just come through a staff review. She asked what criteria they would use.

Mr. Fitzgerald replied that the criteria was outlined in the ordinance.

Commr. Campione indicated her understanding that they would essentially be bound to approve it.

Mr. Fitzgerald commented that under Section 3.03.02, regarding the reasonable accommodation application, this ordinance outlined the timing and the standards for review; additionally, staff would have to evaluate the application and the authenticity of the need, and staff would decide whether to approve the application for a reasonable accommodation within the required time period.

Ms. Marsh added that staff had the ability to deny it, though they had to state with specificity why they were denying it; furthermore, the ordinance allowed for an appeal process which would go to the Board of Adjustment, though this could be changed to the BCC, or they could do something different with the zoning matrix.

Commr. Parks asked if there was a threshold for the number of people, opining that staff could possibly address this if it was small.

Mr. Fitzgerald did not think that there was a threshold for the number of people. He said that a group residential home had six or less residents, and that this was a permitted use as a residential use; however, he relayed his understanding that the subject item was different. He indicated that he was not seeing a limit on the number of individuals.

Ms. Marsh stated that under the definition of “Certified Recovery Residence,” it was a residence that held a valid certificate of compliance and was actively managed by a certified recovery residence administrator. She relayed her understanding that there were four levels including the following: level one included individuals who completed treatment with a minimum of nine months of sobriety; level two encompassed traditional perspectives of sober living homes; level three included higher supervision by staff; and level four had to be provided by a licensed service provider. She also did not recall there being a limitation on the number of people in the statute.

Commr. Campione was unsure if the State had eliminated the ability for the County to decide whether they felt it was negatively impactful on surrounding property owners.

Mr. Fitzgerald read the following from the ordinance: "A request for a reasonable accommodation shall be considered as part of an application for site plan approval, if applicable, and no other meetings shall be required to consider the reasonable accommodation." He relayed that per the State mandate, it was a staff level consideration.

Ms. Marsh asked to let staff contact the State and see if they had any guidance on this, noting that staff could bring this item back and provide additional information to the Board.

Commr. Campione opined that it would be ideal if they could leave it as permitted in C-2, C-3 and CP, and not allow it other zoning districts. She opined that it came down to the operator of the facility, and that this was where they encountered issues where one would preferably want their local County Commission or City Council to be considering the surrounding area; opining that this was where the usurpation of home rule decisions was causing an issue. She said that they could approve to advertise this item and come back between the current time and the next meeting with any guidance staff received from the State. She expressed support for complying, but opined that they should not go further than they had to; otherwise, she opined that they were setting up existing residents for conflicts, and that it was unfair regarding what it could do to their neighborhoods.

Ms. Marsh recommended to hold off on approval to advertise because depending on what answers staff received from the State, they may make changes to this document, noting that staff typically did not like to do this after approval to advertise.

CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY

Deputy EMS Chief John Simpson, with the Office of Fire Rescue, said that the State of Florida was a certificate of public convenience and necessity (COPCN) state, and that the provision of ambulance service and advanced life support (ALS) was highly regulated. He commented that Chapter 401, Florida Statutes, put the sole control within the BCC to award a COPCN required to achieve an ALS license and a transport license of any kind. He relayed that Section 11-19, Lake County Code, provided the process for COPCN application and renewal, and that it also required that they advertise and hold a public hearing before the BCC. He commented that the Lake County BCC held the only unrestricted COPCN, and that it was under this COPCN that they provided countywide ambulance service; furthermore, they also provided ALS first response services within the county, and all of their municipal partners who provided ALS functioned under the County's COPCN and ALS license. He related that it was required to do BLS transport and first response, along with ALS transport and first response, and that the County code required that they renew this every two years. He said that the current COPCN would expire on June 18, 2026, and that their current ALS license would expire on June 22, 2026; additionally, renewal of the COPCN was required to continue providing ambulance and first response service across the county. He stated that they would need to renew their ALS license with the State, and that they would have to submit a new COPCN showing that they were authorized to provide services within the County. He provided the following summary information: Florida was a COPCN State; the Lake County BCC held the only unrestricted COPCN and ALS license in the county, with all of their partners acting under their guidance and their COPCN license; and renewal of the COPCN was required to

continue providing services. He read the requested action for approval to advertise a public hearing on April 28, 2026 to renew the Lake County BCC COPCN.

On a motion by Commr. Smith, seconded by Commr. Sabatini and carried unanimously by a vote of 5-0, the Board approved to advertise a public hearing for the renewal of the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the Lake County Board of Commissioners, Office of Fire Rescue.

WILDFIRE THREAT UPDATE

Deputy Chief of Administration Chris Sievert, with the Office of Fire Rescue, relayed that the displayed list identified four minor incidents since the last update to the Board, and that a couple of the incidents were from items such as a car fire or powerline which happened throughout the year. He mentioned a plume of smoke on the previous day, which was from a 13-acre burn in the Rock Springs area, more on the Orange County side; additionally, there was also a 330-acre burn in that direction, noting that these were conducted through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). He recalled that in the past weekend and the previous week, the Florida Forest Service did a 200-acre controlled burn in the Paisley area. He said that their current drought index was at 443, and he showed a map of the area, noting that this was average. He related that the State was predicting below average rainfall in the foreseeable future, and that they predicted going back to the burn ban in early April 2026 if nothing else changed.

Commr. Campione inquired if FDEP did the controlled burn in conjunction with others.

Deputy Chief Sievert clarified that FDEP had their own forest rangers who tried to manage the forest area around the parks.

APPOINTMENTS TO THE ELDER AFFAIRS COORDINATING COUNCIL

On a motion by Commr. Sabatini, seconded by Commr. Parks and carried unanimously by a vote of 5-0, the Board approved to reappoint the following members to the Elder Affairs Coordinating Council, and applicable waiver, as follows: Mr. Hugh Gravitt for District 1, Seat 1, with a term ending January 31, 2028; Ms. Janelle Carbone-Rodriguez for District 3, Seat 2, with a term ending January 31, 2028; Ms. Kathy Haviland for District 5, Seat 1, with a term ending January 31, 2028; and Ms. Dell Richards for District 5, Seat 2, with a term ending January 31, 2028.

APPOINTMENT TO THE LAKE-SUMTER MPO COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

On a motion by Commr. Sabatini, seconded by Commr. Parks and carried unanimously by a vote of 5-0, the Board approved to appoint Mr. Mario Nappa to the Lake-Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Community Advisory Committee.

APPOINTMENT TO THE BOARD OF BUILDING EXAMINERS

Commr. Sabatini said that he had spoken to Mr. Randy Bumbalough on the phone, opining that this was likely the most powerful of the boards in terms of the extent of what it could do, noting that they were basically independent. He said that he wanted to ensure that the applicants for this board appeared before the BCC; furthermore, Mr. Bumbalough was in attendance, and he

opined that Mr. Bumbalough was great for the job and understood the important role of the board, along with the discretion that they could exercise.

Commr. Campione expressed appreciation for Mr. Bumbalough's willingness to serve in this capacity, noting that it was a serious board. She added that the livelihood of those who were brought before the Board of Building Examiners often rested in the balance, depending on the outcome of those hearings, as well as the consumers who had been impacted by individuals being brought before that board.

On a motion by Commr. Sabatini, seconded by Commr. Parks and carried unanimously by a vote of 5-0, the Board approved to appoint Mr. Randy Bumbalough to the Board of Building Examiners to fill the vacant position of Architect for a term beginning on March 5, 2026 and expiring on January 14, 2030.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

COMMISSIONER SABATINI – DISTRICT 1

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Commr. Sabatini mentioned that the legislative session was over, but that most of the important legislation could potentially resurface in the special session after Easter. He asked the Board to focus on what was occurring.

EAST LAKE HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Commr. Sabatini relayed that he attended the East Lake Heritage Festival and opined that it was a great event. He encouraged everyone to attend.

COMMISSIONER PARKS – VICE CHAIRMAN AND DISTRICT 2

CLERMONT CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Commr. Parks opined that Commissioner Campione did a great job at the March 10, 2026 Clermont City Council meeting, following an October 2025 meeting that the BCC had with the City of Clermont regarding EMS; furthermore, he also opined that staff did a great job. He then indicated that there were some comments at the end of the meeting regarding Wellness Way, if Lake County and Counties in general should do any urban planning, and if Wellness Way should be conducted and planned out within the City of Clermont or if it should be a city itself. He pointed out that this was contrary to the Florida Constitution, indicating that Article 8, Section 1(a) gave a broad use of land uses and empowered Counties to plan following the Growth Management Act. He said that it encouraged the County to plan rural, suburban and urban land uses, and he mentioned Neocity as an example of a regional project planned by Osceola County. He said that 40 or 45 percent of Wellness Way was in the City of Clermont, but that this did not necessarily mean that it was a City of Clermont item only, which was why the County and City were involved. He opined that the City and County viewed it as a regional aspect and knew that piecemeal growth would not be good. He added that there was a reduction in potential land development regarding residential units put in place, and that the water resources were also contemplated with the South Lake Regional Water Initiative being formed. He commented that the Wellness Way development being seen was mostly in the City of Clermont, and that those developments had not been approved in accordance with Wellness Way; furthermore, County staff was looking at proposals and holding

them to the Wellness Way standards, noting that this was a form based code. He opined that exceptions had been made on the City of Clermont side years prior, and that the uncertainty was not being created by the BCC, noting that the County had approved branding and that their communications were strong on this. He clarified that he valued the partnership, and opined that Wellness Way would work with the City of Clermont and the County working together on it, opining that this was certainty.

Commr. Sabatini asked if the City was trying to de-annex.

Commr. Parks clarified that there were just some comments made, noting that a presentation had been made previously at the Clermont City Council in January 2026 where much of this was reviewed. He stated that he could give a historical perspective of Wellness Way to whoever asked about it, and he encouraged the other Commissioners to lean on staff if they received questions about it.

Commr. Campione opined that one could make a comment that it was more of an urbanized area and should be under City control, though the statutes never contemplated that those scenarios would only be in a municipality versus a county. She recalled that Wellness Way had always been planned to be a collaboration without turning into a large municipality, and that it was well defined where City utilities ended and where the private utilities picked up. She opined that from an economic development standpoint, some companies and corporations would likely prefer to have the tax rate of an unincorporated area, and that there were economic reasons why this could work well. She said that considering how much land was allocated for economic development purposes, this had the ability of being attractive for companies who would be looking at Lake County. She opined that when Commissioner Parks heard a comment like this, he could reach out directly to that person and try to have a conversation with them.

Commr. Parks indicated that he could keep doing this as long as he had to.

Commr. Campione then thanked Commissioner Parks for his compliments on her presentation, and opined that the key takeaway was that the ambulance system being countywide was what made it so efficient and such a positive asset to the entire county, as well as the City of Clermont. She added that if they could get the cooperation on being able to house the units internal to the city limits, then this could go a long way toward improving response times inside the city limits. She also indicated that the County had provided additional units, opining that the service had been enhanced significantly since November 2025 and that it was on target as far as what they had been seeing for two years prior. She stated that obstacles they encountered at that time regarded recruitment and availability of ambulances and staffing, and that they were making significant progress which benefited the entire county.

<u>COMMISSIONER SMITH – DISTRICT 3</u>

<u>EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES</u>

Commr. Smith opined that Mr. Carpenter had done a great job with EMS and increasing their recruitment levels. He also mentioned their one of a kind in-house paramedic program.

TAVARES CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Commr. Smith stated that he attended a Tavares City Council meeting, and opined that everything was running smoothly there. He added that a representative of Powerhouse Youth Project would give a presentation to the City in April 2026, and opined that it would be good to have them come to the BCC to present what they were doing for high school students.

WOLF BRANCH INNOVATION DISTRICT LOGO

Commr. Smith recalled that he did not understand the proposed oak tree logo for the Wolf Branch Innovation District (WBID), and he showed a potential logo that he created, opining that it showed off Lake County.

Commr. Campione asked if he saw the re-rendition of the oak tree, opining that the new oak tree was much better. She also relayed her understanding that certain age groups liked more simplistic branding images; however, they could take Commissioner Smith's logo under consideration.

Commr. Sabatini opined that it was a good design, though said that he wanted the most simplistic one.

COMMISSIONER CAMPIONE – CHAIRMAN AND DISTRICT 4

EAST LAKE HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Commr. Campione related that on the previous Saturday and Sunday, the East Lake Historical Society partnered with the Wekiva Wilderness Trust to host the heritage festival at Rock Springs Run Reserve. She opined that they did a great job, and said that she learned much about the lost town of Ethel. She added that individuals were going to try to replicate the town, and opined that it became challenging to do these types of projects because the buildings were occupied and they wanted to use it as a museum; therefore, she hoped that the County could possibly come up with a different designation for when one did a replicated village to not have the full site plan requirements, noting that it was not really a village. She remarked that she was proud of the East Lake Historical Society and all of the people and vendors, and added that many County departments also attended.

HISTORICAL EVENTS

Commr. Campione said that there would be several historical events occurring in the current week, and that the Friends of Golden Triangle History would be presenting a National Medal of Honor celebration as part of the America 250 celebration. She added that there would be some events occurring at McTureous Memorial Park in Altoona, and that the historic home would be open for tours on March 28, 2026.

VISIT TO VFW POST IN ASTOR

Commr. Campione commented that she recently visited the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) post in Astor, and that she took much information provided by the County's veterans services division. She opined that Ms. Maria AbdoulKarim, Director for the Office of Housing and Community Services, was doing a great job, and pointed out that they had three veterans service officers. She relayed that they were doing more outreach and had some great events coming up, including an event in May 2026 at the Eustis Community Center where veterans could

attend and obtain much information. She relayed her understanding that staff was servicing 55 to 60 veterans per week, and that they were only one week out with their appointments. She thanked everyone who was working to make this happen, as well as Seminole County for helping Lake County during a gap period, noting that one had to be certified in veterans services.

NOISE ORDINANCE

Commr. Campione mentioned that individuals were starting to visit Silver Glen Run, and that she had received some reports that the noise ordinance was working when the marine patrol was there. She clarified that they had not been able to place signs yet, though they were informing people. She related that they were waiting on other agencies with regard to signage, and that staff was working on cards that the marine patrol could provide to boaters so that they understood the rules; additionally, the same thing would happen at the Lake Dora Sandbar. She opined that the County had to do whatever they could to help support the marine patrol so that they could continue to be in those locations, especially on the weekends.

COMMISSIONER SMITH – DISTRICT 3

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY AND NATIONAL CHOCOLATE COVERED RAISIN DAY

Commr. Smith said that it was National Agriculture Day and National Chocolate Covered Raisin Day.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought to the attention of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

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LESLIE CAMPIONE, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

_____

GARY J COONEY, CLERK