BOARD ACTION
July 28, 2026

	SPECIAL RECOGNITION **The Board recognized Ms. Gabby Suver, a hit and run survivor who was advocating for cyclist safety on the roads.**	
	EMPLOYEE AWARDS **FIVE YEARS** Maria Abdoulkarim, Office of Housing and Community Services Director Office of Housing and Community Services Robert Petrino, Field Technician Office of Water Resources John Rockett, Sign and Striping Technician I Public Works – Traffic Operations Steven Wheeler, EMS Battalion Chief Office of Fire Rescue – EMS **QUARTERLY AWARDS** **EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER** Cristina Garrido, Planner II Office of Planning and Zoning Mariellie Alvarez, Legal Program Specialist County Attorney's Office **SUPERVISOR OF THE QUARTER** Christina Shelton, Facilities Maintenance Manager Office of Facilities Maintenance **T.E.A.M. OF THE QUARTER** **EMERGENCY DISPATCH QUALITY ASSURANCE TEAM** Joanna Buchanan, Division Chief Margaret Albandor, Emergency Dispatch Supervisor Candice Collier, Emergency Dispatch Supervisor Amber Otero, Emergency Dispatch Supervisor Heather Pelton, Emergency Dispatch Supervisor Sarah Bray, Emergency Dispatch Lead Katherine Ennis, Emergency Dispatch Lead Tina Winkler, Emergency Dispatch Lead	KOVACS

	Erica Braddock, Telecommunicator	
APPROVED	**Tab 1.** Request for approval of the minutes of the BCC Meetings of May 19, 2026 (Regular Meeting), May 21, 2026 (Special Meeting), and May 26, 2026 (Special Meeting).	COONEY
	CITIZEN QUESTION AND COMMENT PERIOD Ms. Cindy Newton, a resident of Commission District 4, expressed concern about the Deep Woods Ranch Airport, and said that according to a previous Board of County Commissioners (BCC) meeting, they were just paving the airstrip and adding a 10,000-foot hangar. She showed the original 1987 map of this area when it was licensed as a sod airstrip, and noted that in 2006, it came back to the BCC for an amendment, which included dividing the property into four parcels. She indicated her understanding that the landowners were given property rights to use the airstrip, and that the eight acres in the center of the property was excluded from the conditional use permit (CUP); furthermore, some extra usage for training and other uses was allowed since they had been using the airstrip to help fight fires due to fires in the late 1990s and for occasional use during droughts. She displayed a recent survey, and explained that they were doing the following: paving the airstrip; extending the taxiway or length of the airstrip; adding a paved parking area for twelve airplanes; adding lighting on the airstrip with the intensity to see up to 10 miles, which was not dark sky compliant; adding 1.88 miles of an eight-foot tall wildlife fence, noting that they would have the right to euthanize any animals that made it past the fencing for the safety of the students; and they had taken the hangar out of the plans. Mr. Rick Carlins, a resident of the City of Fruitland Park, indicated concerns about artificial intelligence (AI) data centers, surveillance, Flock Safety cameras, and other cameras, opining that they collected data by taking photographs of vehicle license plates, locating cell phones, using facial recognition, and storing this data. He opined that even though this technology could be used for good purposes, it could also be used against personal liberties, and he gave an example of it possibly being used against someone traveling to visit a loved one during a government shutdown, such as the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) shutdown. He remarked that he wanted to find out how these cameras were being funded in Lake County so that he could oppose it, and that he was gathering information, opining that public surveillance had reached a level where it needed to be stopped. Mr. James Friend, a resident of Lake County, expressed appreciation to the BCC for the countywide stance on license plate readers (LPRs), and opined the even just a few LPRs were too much. He opined that Flock Safety was	

	trying to obtain digital fingerprints, which were tied to license plates, and that the correlation of data was becoming a dragnet of surveillance. He relayed his understanding that there were police officers that abused the Driver and Vehicle Information Database (DAVID) system, noting that Sumter County had to suspend all LPRs because of a Sumter County Sheriff's Office deputy's illegal surveillance of another officer's ex-wife. He opined that this system enabled abuse, and that even though he supported first responders and police officers, not everybody was a good person. He opined that Lake County had good police officers and Sheriff's deputies, and that Flock Safety cameras were not needed. Ms. Miranda Brenton, a resident of Lake County, indicated appreciation for the difficult job of balancing public safety with protecting the freedoms that made Lake County a wonderful place to live. She asked that Lake County remove Flock Safety cameras, and opined that even though she supported the Sheriff's deputies and wanted them to have the resources needed to solve real crimes, public safety and constitutional rights should never be viewed as competing priorities. She relayed her understanding that across the country, communities were beginning to reconsider these systems, and noted that the Sumter County Sheriff's Office suspended its Flock Safety camera program after a detective was arrested and accused of improperly using the system and other law enforcement databases for personal reasons, opining that this incident demonstrated why many residents worried about the potential for abuse when powerful surveillance tools existed without perfect safeguards. She commented that other communities had also decided that the risks outweighed the benefits, and she listed other places in the country that had cancelled their contracts with Flock Safety and removed their cameras. She opined that even though the cameras could help solve crimes, a system that recorded the daily movements of ordinary citizens, stored that information, and made it searchable across thousands of agencies should not be normalized, and that once this infrastructure existed, future misuse was probable. She opined that as technology became more powerful, their commitment to protecting individual liberty should become stronger, and requested that the BCC would pause, reconsider, and begin the process of removing these cameras. She opined that Lake County should remain safe and free, and that they should not have to sacrifice one for the other. Mr. Andrew LaRue, a resident of Commission District 3, asked that BCC to get rid of the Flock Safety cameras, opining that the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States (U.S.) superseded the government's right to collect mass surveillance on citizens. He opined that police officers were too busy doing their job to watch everyone, and he questioned who owned the data and what the safeguards were. He opined that this did not have proper safeguards in place, and that the government in general could	

	misuse this tool. He also opined that what happened to Ms. Suver was a serious issue, and that the best solution would be to build more trail systems for bicycles and pedestrians, separating them from cars on the road. Ms. Jenny Owen, a resident of Lake County, expressed concern about Flock Safety, and said that when she had made a public records request for documents pertaining to it, she was directed to the Lake County Sheriff's Office (LCSO), noting that the records custodian would not provide those documents. Ms. Lisa Hayden, a resident on Dennis Road in the City of Leesburg speaking via Zoom, indicated appreciation to the BCC for all the work they did for the community, for the opportunity to speak remotely, and for all the attention given to issues that impacted their lives. She requested that the Board consider scheduling a formal public hearing regarding the Embry Riddle Deep Woods Ranch aviation training facility, as this would allow the BCC to review the facts. She opined that the current proposal expanded beyond the scope of the existing CUP, and that the residents would have a chance to discuss how this could impact lives, businesses, property values, the Ocala National Forest with the clearing that would be done outside of the parcels that were purchased, and the noise disruption to the surrounding soundscape. She opined that this matter was significant enough to be placed on an upcoming agenda. Mr. Alan Chen, a resident of Treasure Island Road in the City of Leesburg speaking via Zoom, agreed with what Ms. Hayden and Ms. Newton had said, and noted that at the previous BCC meeting, Mr. Egor Emery, a resident of Lake County, requested a public hearing on the Embry Riddle Airport project situated in the Ocala National Forest, which he would also like to request. He remarked that according to a news segment on the airport, an Embry Riddle representative said that they continued to work closely with Lake County, the U.S. Forest Service, and other regulatory agencies as they developed a limited footprint in the area; however, he indicated his understanding that the County was no longer involved since Embry Riddle was just going to pave the runway and possibly add or replace a hangar. He opined that the project was much more extensive than just paving the runway, and that the BCC may be unaware of the extent and impact of this project. He expressed concerns that there would be significant far-reaching consequences, and opined that this would negatively impact about 50,000 acres, the soundscape, nearby residences and towns, the wildlife, and local ecotourism, which could lead to loss of revenue and jobs in Lake County; furthermore, he opined that the number of permanent jobs that the project would bring in were minimal. He opined that there were potential violations to Lake County code in the most recent plans submitted to these regulatory	

	agencies, and that while it appeared that Lake County had reviewed these plans, issues remained. He requested a public hearing to discuss the full ramifications of Embry Riddle's airport project with the BCC.	
APPROVED	**Tab 2.** Approval of Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller's Consent Agenda (Items 1-7) 1. 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 and filed in the Board Support Division of the Clerk's Office. 2. Notice is hereby provided of having received the Central Lake Community Development District Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2027 in accordance with Section 190.008(2)(b), Florida Statutes for purposes of disclosure and information only. 3. Notice is hereby provided of having received Ordinance 2026-025 from the City of Fruitland Park. 4. Notice is hereby provided of having received the City of Tavares CRA Financial Statements and Independent Auditor's Report for the Fiscal Year ended September 30, 2025. 5. Notice is hereby provided of having received the City of Tavares' Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2025. 6. Notice is hereby provided of having received the City of Groveland's Financial Statements for Fiscal Year 2025. 7. Notice is hereby provided of having received the City of Umatilla's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2025.	COONEY
APPROVED	**Tab 3.** Request from County Attorney to recommend approval to execute an Estoppel Letter regarding the Lease Agreement between Lake County and Southridge Shoppes (US), Inc., for the Sheriff located at 4215 County Road 561, in Tavares. There is no fiscal impact.	MARSH
APPROVED	**Tab 4.** Request from Procurement Services to recommend approval: 1. To declare the items listed on the attached inventory as surplus; and 2. To authorize their removal from the County's fixed asset records; and 3. To authorize the Office of Procurement Services Director to execute all supporting documentation.	BARKER

	The fiscal impact cannot be determined at this time (revenue).	
APPROVED	**Tab 5.** Request from Human Resources and Risk Management to recommend approval of a Liability Claim Settlement for a motor vehicle accident which occurred on June 23, 2024. The fiscal impact is $100,000.	KOVACS
APPROVED	**Tab 6.** Request from Housing and Community Services to recommend approval of the Urban County Cooperation Agreements relating to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program between Lake County and the City of Umatilla and the Town of Astatula, respectively, for Fiscal Years 2027, 2028 and 2029. There is no fiscal impact.	CHRISTIAN
APPROVED	**Tab 7.** Request from Transit Services to recommend approval**:** 1. To accept the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged Trip and Equipment Grant Agreement for Fiscal Year 2026-2027; and 2. To adopt Unanticipated Revenue **Resolution 2026-82** (URR) to accept and appropriate $212,787 for the CTD Trip and Equipment Grant; and 3. Of a budget transfer in the amount of $23,643 funds Transit Reserves for Operations to the Contractual Services. The total fiscal impact is $1,050,769 — $945,693 (revenue/expenditure - grant funded) and $105,076 (expenditure - county match).	CHRISTIAN
APPROVED	**Tab 8.** Request from Transit Services to recommend approval: 1. To accept the Federal Transit Administration's Capital Grant Award Number FL 2026-031 for $2,248,842; and 2. To adopt Unanticipated Revenue **Resolution 2026-83** (URR) to accept and appropriate $2,206,095 for the Federal Transit Administration's Capital Grant; and 3. To procure the three replacement fixed route buses under the Jacksonville Transportation Authority's RFP P-23-030, a contract between Jacksonville Transportation Authority and Gillig, LLC. The fiscal impact is $2,248,842 (revenue/expenditure — 100 percent grant funded).	CHRISTIAN
APPROVED	**Tab 9.** Request from Facilities Management to recommend approval: 1. To award RFQ Q2026-00042 to RMS Orlando, Inc. (Orlando, FL) for the Building 320 Reroofing Project; and 2. To authorize the Office of Procurement Services to execute all supporting documentation.	BONILLA

	The fiscal impact of $231,500 (expenditure — $212,500 plus $19,000 for contingency purposes) is within, and will not exceed, the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget. Commission District 3.	
APPROVED	**Tab 10.** Request from Facilities Management to recommend approval of an Interlocal Agreement with the Town of Montverde (Town) for Lake County (County) to perform fire and life safety inspections and establish shared costs for water infrastructure improvements pertaining to the new construction of Fire Station #85. The total estimated fiscal impact is $197,095.02 ($87,047.51 — County expenditure and $110,047.51 — Town reimbursement), and is within and will not exceed this Fiscal Year's Budget.	BONILLA
APPROVED	**Tab 12.** Request from Public Works to recommend approval: 1. To award RFQ Q2026-00109 to Estep Construction, Inc. (Apopka, FL) to resurface and add right and left turn lanes on northbound CR 437 at Sorrento Avenue; and 2. To authorize the Office of Procurement Services to execute all supporting documentation. The fiscal impact is $157,359.83 (expenditure) is within, and will not exceed, the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget. Commission District 4.	BONILLA
APPROVED	**Tab 11.** Request from Public Works to recommend approval: 1. Of a Purchase Agreement for property with Wolf Branch LLC for the Round Lake Road Extension Project; and 2. Of a Pond Drainage Easement Agreement; and 3. To authorize the County Manager to execute any necessary amendments that do not have an additional fiscal impact; and 4. To authorize the Chairman to execute any necessary closing documents, including an Affidavit Affecting Real Property with County Attorney review and approval; and 5. Of a budget transfer in the amount of $830,000 from ROW/Easement - Round Lake Road Segment II to ROW/Easement - Round Lake Road Segment I. The estimated fiscal impact is $2,749,000 ($2,735,000 purchase price plus $14,000 closing costs) - $1,374,500 (revenue/expenditure - grant funded) and $1,374,500 (expenditure - county match). Commission District 4.	BONILLA
APPROVED	**Tab 13.** Recommend approval to establish maximum millage rates to be included in the Truth in Millage (TRIM) notifications, and approval to hold public hearings at 5:05 p.m. on Tuesday, September 8, 2026, and Tuesday,	BARKER

	September 22, 2026, and to advertise these public hearings.	
PRESENTATION	**Tab 14.** In preparation for August 25, 2026, first reading of a proposed moratorium on data centers, a presentation on data centers is being provided by Dr. Issa Batarseh, Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Central Florida.	DIAL
APPROVED	**Tab 15. PUBLIC HEARING:** Recommend adoption and execution of **Ordinance 2026-33** creating Section 3.03.00, Lake County Code, Land Development Regulations, to be entitled, Certified Recovery Residences, and amending Appendix E, Chapter II, Lake County Code, Land Development Regulations, entitled Definitions, and Chapter III, Section 3.01.03, entitled, Schedule of Permitted and Conditional Uses. Required per Senate Bill 954 (2025). There is no fiscal impact.	DIAL
APPROVED	**Tab 16. PUBLIC HEARING:** Recommend adoption and execution of **Ordinance 2026-34** amending Section 9.01.06, Lake County Code, Appendix E, Land Development Regulations, entitled Landscape Buffer Requirements, to establish a minimum landscape buffer width for properties developing along public roadways. There is no fiscal impact.	DIAL
APPOINTMENT/ APPROVED	**Tab 17.** Recommend approval for the appointment or reappointment of the following members to the Parks, Recreation and Trails Advisory Board. The term for members in District 2 expired on June 30, 2026. Applicants: District 2: (one seat) • Jim Peacock (reappointment) (Mr. Peacock is also a member of the Green Mountain Scenic Byway Committee) • Christopher Gonzales Additional applicants: District 1: Michelle Craske, with conflict waiver District 5: Kayla Tufts, (Ms. Tufts is also a member of the Children Services Council) District 5: Angel Coba (Ms. Coba is also a member of the Children Services Council) Commissioner Smith is the liaison to the Parks, Recreation and Trails	SMITH

	Advisory Board. Unless otherwise listed herein, the applicants are not current members of another board or committee through appointment from the Board of County Commissioners (Board). **The Board approved to reappoint Mr. Jim Peacock.**	
APPOINTMENTS/ APPROVED	**Tab 18.** Recommend approval of the reappointment of the following members to the Public Lands and Trails Acquisition Advisory Committee. The term for Districts 2 and 4 members expired on July 22, 2026, and the term for two At-Large members expires on August 12, 2026. District 2 (Term expires July 22, 2026) — Tim Sallin, seeking reappointment District 4 (Term expires July 22, 2026) — Cade Carter, seeking reappointment (Mr. Carter is also a member of the Parks, Recreation and Trails Advisory Board) At-Large Member (Term expires August 12, 2026) — Donna Bosold, seeking reappointment At-Large Member (Term expires August 12, 2026) — A.J. Rohe, seeking reappointment Additional applicants: District 1: Michelle Craske, with conflict waiver Commissioner Parks is the liaison to the Public Lands and Trails Acquisition Advisory Committee. Unless otherwise listed herein, the applicants are not current members of another board or committee through appointment from the Board of County Commissioners (Board). There is no fiscal impact. **The Board approved to reappoint Mr. Tim Sallin, Mr. Cade Carter, Ms. Donna Bosold, and Mr. A.J. Rohe.**	PARKS
FOR YOUR INFORMATION	Commr. Parks expressed appreciation for placing the Special Recognition of Ms. Suver on the agenda, opining that she did a great job. He mentioned that there were quick response (QR) codes that could be used to sign a petition or give support, and asked that Lake County's legislative delegation consider legislation regarding improved education and tougher consequences for hit and run drivers, opining that Ms. Suver had some good ideas. He opined that her personal experience would give more weight to the legislative	PARKS

	delegation, and requested that they would invite Ms. Suver to come speak to them about some of the legislative things she mentioned on the current day.	
FOR YOUR INFORMATION	Commr. Parks requested information on water quality enhancement areas (WQEAs), and opined that it was akin to wetland mitigation for the nutrient side of water resources. He relayed his understanding that even though it had been law for a couple of years, it was finally starting to gain traction, and opined that since they were going to be doing some rulemaking in the current year, it could be important for the County to have an update on what a WQEA was and how it could help Lake County. He indicated his understanding that there was a way to potentially purchase these properties with land management funds, and that there was a credit system in place statutorily, noting that he would to like to discuss this in conjunction with the Lake County Water Authority (LCWA).	PARKS
FOR YOUR INFORMATION	Commr. Campione commented that at the previous BCC meeting there was discussion about the Wekiva Protection Area and the transfer of development rights (TDRs), and opined that even though there were several areas that were already developed in the receiving areas, there were some parcels that were completely pristine large tracts, such as the area east of the RedTail community. She opined that this should be a sending area instead of a receiving area, and that these parcels were much like those in the Wekiva Protection Area where one would not want to see development. She explained that the TDRs discussed at the meeting were different from those attached to existing property in the sending areas, and that they were not speculative, as they were existing and not attached to a property, opining that this was what made them very accessible to developers who wanted to purchase them and place them on these receiving properties. She opined that this was a real threat, and asked that the Board would keep an open mind and consider how these could be taken off the market. She opined that even though the PLTAAC had many parcels submitted, some of the parcels in the receiving areas should also be under consideration.	CAMPIONE
FOR YOUR INFORMATION	Commr. Smith said that it was National Chocolate Milk Day.	SMITH