

Liberty County, FL

Liberty County Board of County Commissioners Budget Workshop

Minutes

Thursday, August 7, 2025 at 5:00 pm

AGENDAS ARE POSTED ON THE BOARD'S WEBSITE AT WWW.LIBERTYCOUNTYFL.ORG;
ATTACHMENTS ARE PROVIDED TO THE BOARD MEMBERS ONLY AND ARE AVAILABLE TO THE
PUBLIC UPON REQUEST.

Meeting Location

Liberty County Courthouse - 10818 NW SR 20; Bristol, Florida 32321

Zoom link and call in numbers

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81369943366?pwd=TYPPmd8GkLuW4MqVSWAK7mVuL42Jsa.1>

Meeting ID: 813 6994 3366

Passcode: 303944

One tap mobile

+13052241968,,81369943366#,,,,*303944# US

Dial by your location

• +1 305 224 1968 US

1. Call to Order

Minutes:

- Chairman Dewayne Branch called the regular meeting to order in person and via zoom at 6:00 P.M. Present at the meeting were Commissioners Hannah Causseaux, Jim Johnson, Doyle Brown, Derrick Arnold, Clerk Jace Ford and Deputy Clerk Kaly Barfield.

2. Invocation

Minutes:

- Invocation was led by Commissioner Causseaux.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes:

- Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bobby Revell.

4. Audience Concerns

Minutes:

- There were no audience concerns.

5. Motion to Amend the Agenda

6. Motion to Adopt the Agenda

Minutes:

- Motion to Adopt the Agenda made by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Johnson. Motion Carried.

7. Budget Update - Clerk Ford

Minutes:

- Clerk, Jace Ford provided an overview of the operational budget, noting a \$1.4 million shortfall between revenues and expenses.
- Grants and one-off purchases were excluded from operational costs.
- Discussion on the impact of reserve spending and the anticipated completion of the jail project.

8. BOCC Health Insurance

Minutes:

- The board discussed whether to include the \$1,000 bonus per BOCC employee in the budget, as well as options for raises and absorbing health insurance increases.
- Consensus was to keep the bonus and insurance increase in the budget, but not to include raises this year.

9. BOCC raises

10. BOCC employee bonuses

Minutes:

- Discussion on the need to review the policy to potentially make bonuses discretionary based on the county's financial situation.
- Noted that the current policy requires bonuses contingent on positive performance evaluations.
- Clerk, Jace Ford presented a proposal to provide a second ambulance and EMS staff for high school football games, with a potential 50/50 cost split with the school district.
- Board members discussed the fairness and necessity of the arrangement, ultimately agreeing in principle to a cost split of \$1,200 for the county's share, pending further discussion and a formal vote at the next meeting.
- Discussion on historical practices regarding employee bonuses (e.g., turkeys/hams at holidays).
- Suggestion to plan an employee appreciation event in the future.

11. Adjourn Budget Workshop

Minutes:

- Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Causseaux. Motion carried.

12. Signature

Florida Statute 125.001 requires that due public notice be given of all regular meetings of the Board of County Commissioners of a County in the State of Florida. Florida Statute 286.0105 requires that notices of any meeting or hearing, if a meeting or hearing is required, must include the following language, "if a person decides to appeal any decision made by the board, agency or commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing he will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he may need to insure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based."

Contact: Jace Ford (jford@libertyclerk.com (850) 643-2215) | Minutes published on 01/15/2026, adopted on 09/04/2025