

Minutes

March 5, 2026

Commissioners present: Jeffrey Hunker, Timothy Bechtol and William Bateson present.

Also Present: Christine Carrigan, Phil Johnson, Adam Witteman, Saige Thornley and Courtney O' Flaherty. Please see attached sign in sheet for additional attendees that attended from the Board of Developmental Disabilities.

Commissioner Hunker opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' first floor conference room. Minutes from March 3, 2026, meetings were read with William Bateson making the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

William Bateson made the motion to approve the Warrant Journals, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0. The Commissioners approved payroll for their staff and JFS.

The Commissioners proclaimed March 2026 Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. The Board of Developmental Disabilities staff and students introduced themselves. The students shared their community work experience.

The Assistant Clerk presented the following resolutions for consideration:

Resolution #133-26 – Transfer of Hancock County Solid Waste Management District Tier Disposal Fees to the Tiered Disposal Fee Fund #5109 (\$78,285.76). William Bateson making the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #134-26 – Transfer of funds within the appropriation - General Fund #1001 Mapping \$2,000.00. William Bateson making the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #135-26 – Transfer of funds within the appropriation - Workforce Development Fund #2105 \$800.00. William Bateson making the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #136-26 – Additional appropriation within the Auditor's certification - Commissioners to appropriate to HUD Fund #2062 \$1,700.00. William Bateson making the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #137-26 – Additional appropriation within the Auditor's certification - Commissioners to appropriate to Courthouse Restoration Construction Fund #4145 \$235,200.00. William Bateson making the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #138-26 to decrease the Capital Projects Fund #4150 appropriation by \$975,000.00 was not presented at this time.

Resolution #139-26 – Authorizing payment of the listed and/or attached purchase orders. William Bateson making the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Phil Johnson presented the following resolutions for consideration:

The resolution authorizing the disposal of Public Property no longer needed by the Hancock County Maintenance Department was not presented at this time.

Resolution #140-26 – Authorizing entry into a contract with RCM Architects, Inc., for provision of architectural services in relation to the proposed relocation and reconfiguration of the public entrance to the Hancock County Courthouse. This contract is in the amount of \$235,300.00. William Bateson making the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Adam Witteman had nothing to report from the Auditor's office.

There were no additional comments.

Meetings/Reports

Timothy Bechtol attended the Chick Fil A grand opening and the Township Trustee Association meeting.

William Bateson attended the Chamber Ag Committee meeting and the Economic Development meeting.

Jeffrey Hunker attended the Chick Fil A grand opening and the Township Trustee Association meeting.

At 10:30 a.m., the Commissioners met with Sargent Mark Price, Brian Stozich, Sheriff Cortez and Deputy Tom Walker. Christine Carrigan, Adam Witteman and Saige Thornley were also present. Sargent Price requested the commissioners approve a resolution to recognize Communications Officers as First Responders. Sargent Price explained that by reclassifying the role, it will give Communications Officers access to more specialized mental health programs. Sargent Price shared the importance of the Communications Officer's role. He stated they experience just as much trauma as the law enforcement officers. They are the first contact for all emergency situations. Discussion was held regarding the number of Communications officers employed, the office space they occupy and the progression of their responsibilities over the years. Sheriff Cortez shared that there is funding to become available for post-traumatic stress for first responders. This reclassification is about providing mental health services and making sure the people taking care of the law enforcement officers and the fire fighters are also being taken care of. He reemphasized the importance of the Communications officer's role. Sheriff Cortez explained his new wellness assessment policy. Sheriff Cortez stated we have an obligation to the people that we serve. If somebody calls in with an emergency, they need to know they are going to have somebody in sound mind with no issues or problems assisting to get the help that is needed.

At 11:00 a.m., the Commissioners met with Matt Gilroy Eric Kuhlman and Adam Miller. Phil Johnson, Christine Carrigan and Alec Helms were also present. Eric and Adam from Tawa Landscape Co. shared information about their current operations on County Rd. 140. In addition,

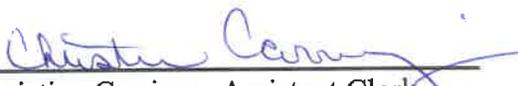
they shared that to expand their operations they would like to acquire some of the county commissioner's owned property that is adjacent to their property. Matt Gillroy shared that the Commissioners could proceed with the following options. They can lease the property, sale the property through the Port Authority or sell it through public auction. Discussion was held regarding the commissioner's preference on selling through the Port Authority or by public auction. In addition, discussion was held about another business that is interested in acquiring county owned property.

Phil Johnson requested an executive session in regards to potential litigation and potential real estate transfer. Sheriff Cortez requested executive session in regard to personnel discipline.

At 11:40 a.m., Jeffrey Hunker made a motion to enter into executive session in regard to potential litigation, potential real estate transfer and personnel discipline. Timothy Bechtol seconded. A roll call vote resulted as follows: Jeffrey Hunker, yes; Timothy Bechtol, yes; Willima Bateson, yes. At 12:08 p.m., Jeffrey Hunker made a motion to come out of executive session, in regard to potential litigation, potential real estate transfer and personnel discipline with no action taken. Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

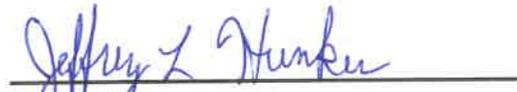
Work session topics:

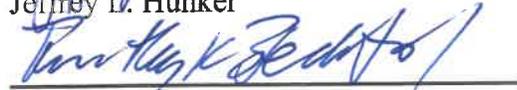
Respectfully submitted,


Christine Carrigan, Assistant Clerk

Reviewed and approved by:


William L. Bateson


Jeffrey L. Hunker


Timothy K. Bechtol

Sign In

Jonny AVERS

CALEB TONG

Nadine Weininger

Jude Kiser

SARABOWER

Corbin Jackman

Danielle Fisher

Josh Teegardin