

## **Infrastructure Surtax Citizen Oversight Board**

Date: January 12, 2026  
Time: 5:30 pm  
Location: County Administration Building - Grace Knight Conference Room  
12 SE 1 Street, 2nd Floor, Gainesville, FL 32601

### **1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Alachua County Members Present: Jill Cunningham (Vice Chair), Eric Drummond (Chair), Steve Howard, Jack Kulas, and Nancy Wilkinson (alternate)

City of Gainesville Members Present: David Ruiz

Incorporated Cities (not Gainesville) Members Present:

Members Absent: Ross Ambrose and Bonnie Burgess

Staff Present: Gina Peebles

Other Municipal Staff Present: Jennifer Applebee, Mike Gobczynski, Brent Lanier, Rachel Mandell, Phil Mann, Damon Messina, Brian Singleton, Betsy Waite, and Diane Wilson

Outside Counsel: Patrice Boyes

### **2. Approval of the Regular and Consent Agendas**

David Ruiz made a motion to approve the Regular and Consent agendas as presented; Jack Kulas second; unanimous approval; motion carried. Mr. Ruiz stated that the County Commission has changed its rules requiring Public Comment at both the beginning and end of the meeting. Chair Drummond inquired if anyone from the public wished to speak, and there were none.

### **3. Approval of Minutes**

Jack Kulas made a motion to approve the Sep. 22, 2025 minutes as presented; David Ruiz second; unanimous approval; motion carried.

### **4. Consent Agenda**

- 4.1 Accept 4th Qtr. (Jul., Aug., Sep., 2025) Wild Spaces Public Places Expenditures for Archer and LaCrosse**
- 4.2 Accept 4th Qtr. (Jul., Aug., Sep., 2025) Infrastructure Expenditures for Archer, Hawthorne, LaCrosse, and Micanopy**
- 5. Review of Quarterly Wild Spaces Public Places Municipal / County Expenditures for 4th Qtr. (Jul., Aug., Sep. 2025)**
  - 5.1 Alachua County**

David Ruiz made a motion to approve the quarterly Alachua County report as presented on screen; Jack Kulas seconded; unanimous approval; motion carried.
  - 5.2 Alachua**

Jack Kulas made a motion to approve the quarterly Alachua report as presented; David Ruiz seconded; unanimous approval; motion carried.
  - 5.3 Gainesville**

Jack Kulas made a motion to approve the quarterly Gainesville report as presented; David Ruiz seconded; unanimous approval; motion carried.
  - 5.4 Hawthorne**

Jill Cunningham made a motion to approve the quarterly Hawthorne report as presented; Jack Kulas seconded; unanimous approval; motion carried.
  - 5.5 Micanopy**

David Ruiz made a motion to approve the quarterly Micanopy report as presented; Jill Cunningham seconded. The motion was withdrawn and this report was tabled as the report shows comingled 2017 and 2023 surtax funds for the same project
  - 5.6 Newberry**

The Board requested a note stating that "a one-time funding source was used for x project" moving forward. Jack Kulas made a motion to approve the quarterly Newberry report as presented; David Ruiz seconded; unanimous approval; motion carried.
  - 5.7 Waldo**

Jack Kulas made a motion to approve the quarterly Waldo report as presented; David Ruiz seconded; unanimous approval; motion carried.

**6. Review of Quarterly Infrastructure Municipal / County Expenditures for 4th Qtr. (Jul., Aug., Sep. 2025)**

**6.1 Alachua County**

The Board noticed a formula error and requested (1) more detail on why there was a “reallocation” of ~\$178,000 and (2) why were some “project charges for design” categorized as capital and others as operating? Staff will request clarification. Steve Howard made a motion to approve the quarterly Alachua County report as presented; Jack Kulas seconded; unanimous approval; motion carried.

**6.2 Alachua**

Steve Howard made a motion to approve the quarterly Alachua report as presented; David Ruiz seconded; unanimous approval; motion carried.

**6.3 Gainesville**

David Ruiz made a motion to approve the quarterly Gainesville report as presented; Jack Kulas seconded; unanimous approval; motion carried.

**6.4 Newberry**

David Ruiz made a motion to approve the quarterly Newberry report as presented; Jill Cunningham seconded; unanimous approval; motion carried.

**6.5 Waldo**

Jack Kulas made a motion to approve the quarterly Waldo report as presented; Steve Howard seconded; unanimous approval; motion carried.

**7. Old Business**

**7.1 Interest Income - Hawthorne, High Springs, and Waldo**

Responses were received from the cities of Hawthorne and Waldo. The Board reiterated that jurisdictions should enter N/A if they do not utilize interest bearing accounts.

**7.2 Audit Attestations**

Follow up is necessary for several jurisdictions whose audit attestations are still missing.

**7.3 Archer Request for Extension Update**

The City and County are having a joint meeting on Feb. 9 and a Fiscal Update is on the agenda. Staff will update the Oversight Board at your next scheduled meeting.

#### **7.4 High Springs Updated 2023-2025 Reports**

Diane Wilson explained that she backed out ~\$400,000 in Canoe Outpost expenses and charged them to the City's loan for the attached 2023-2025 reports. 2017 Surtax funds are fully expended for eligible projects (Douglas Community Center improvements and parks master plan) and ~\$750,000 is available in 2023 Surtax funds. The Oversight Board will review the reports at their next scheduled meeting.

#### **7.5 Conservation Easement - State Land Acquisition Programs**

Andi Christman requested a pre-expenditure review at the Sep. 22, 2025 meeting to determine if surtax funding could be used in the acquisition of a conservation easement by the State of Florida, in which Alachua County retains perpetual easement rights, but is not named as an easement grantee. The Oversight Board requested Outside Counsel, Patrice Boyes, to provide an opinion, attached. Jack Kulas made a motion that restrictive covenants do not qualify for surtax expenditures of property; Jill Cunningham second; unanimous approval; motion carried.

#### **7.6 Alachua Request for Contract Language Recommendation**

Damon Messina reported that the City hopes to make necessary recreational improvements to Alachua Elementary. Per the attached memo from Outside Counsel, Patrice Boyes, an updated interlocal agreement between the School Board and City is necessary. The County provided their recent Lake Forest agreement as a sample.

### **8. New Business**

#### **8.1 Financial Accountability Questionnaire**

The Oversight Board requested responses be consolidated into one document. Staff will handle and provide for the next scheduled meeting.

### **9. Public Comment (3 Minutes)**

None.

### **10. Date/Time/Location of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on April 27 at 5:30 p.m. in the Grace Knight Meeting Room.

**11. Attendance Report**

**12. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.