

DELEGATION ON GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY (DOGE) COMMITTEE

MONDAY, JUNE 30, 2025 – 6:00 P.M.

Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

Attendees:

Paul Passarelli, Chairman
Douglas Huberts, Vice Chairman
Brandon Mowatt, Committee Member
Melissa Arceneaux, Committee Member
Robert Morgan, Committee Member
Kevin Passafiume, Committee Member
Melissa Flanagan, Committee Member
Richard Ross, Committee Member
Keith Kolasa, Committee Member
Ryan Amsler, Hernando County Commissioner, District 1
Jeffrey Rogers, Hernando County Administration
Michael Cowan, Hernando County Attorney's Office
Jessica Wright, Hernando County Administration
Demetris Williams-Fagin, Hernando County Administration

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. Introductions were held.

Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Amsler – called meeting to order and thanked everyone.

Mr. Rogers – Invocation and Pledge of Allegation

Commissioner Amsler – asked the committee members to introduce themselves.

Mr. Cowan – reviewed the Sunshine Law. He stated this committee won't be making decisions only recommendations.

- Open Meetings: Any meeting where two or more members of a public committee discuss matters that will foreseeably come before the committee for recommendation must be open to the public.
- Reasonable Notice: The public must receive reasonable advance notice of these meetings.
- Minutes: Minutes of the meetings must be taken and be available for public inspection
- Time frame is 7 days for a legal notice which must include date, time and location. Criminal penalties are 2nd degree penalties.

Mr. Cowan – reviewed the Sunshine Law.

Mr. Cowan – reviewed attendance at meetings. Board of Advisory 3 consecutive absences on the board and you may be removed by the BOCC.

Commissioner Amsler – Selection of Chairperson & Vice Chairperson

Mr. Mowatt – wants the position outlined before voting.

Commissioner Amsler – wants to pick Chairperson & Vice Chairperson first.
Commissioner Amsler explained why we should pick first.

Mr. Mowatt – does the Chairperson have special powers.

Commissioner Amsler – Chairperson will run the meetings.

Mr. Rogers – will help establish the agenda, put items on the agenda to discuss & is responsible to set agenda Ms. Wright.

Mr. Huberts – made motion for Mr. Morgan as Chair. Mr. Passarelli and Mr. Mowatt, second the motion after discussion nomination is retracted.

Melissa Arceneaux – nomination for Mr. Passarelli, Mr. Ross seconded the motion.

Mr. Passarelli – talked why he should be chair. All voted, no nays.

Mr. Passarelli – Mr. Mowatt and Mr. Hubert want to be Vice Chairperson. Mr. Mowatt rescinded. Mr. Ross would like to be Vice Chairperson. Mr. Morgan nominates Mr. Huberts and with a second by Mr. Mowatt. All voted, no nays.

Mr. Passarelli – discussion on items.

Mr. Huberts – how are they getting items?

Commissioner Amsler – told them who they can ask. Mr. Rogers, Ms. Wright, they will receive a list of contact information to ask directors.

Mr. Rogers – what is there each individual desire to look at? We can get the information to you electronically. We can setup up a share site for each individual desire.

Mr. Passarelli – Is anything off limits?

Mr. Rogers – negotiations, union negotiations, personal data, health records are not public records. If it falls under the BOCC, we shall provide it. Constitutionals we can do a Public Records Request for it, BOCC can't demand it.

Mr. Passafiume – wants a contact list, so he can ask for public records request. He wants to know where he gets a doge email.

Mr. Passarelli – stated he started a doge email. He wanted to give committee members login info.

Mr. Rogers – explained sunshine law again regarding communication.

Mr. Cowan – your minds can't come together outside of this forum.

Mr. Rogers – said it's up to committee members to survey citizens of Hernando County or they can survey themselves to see which departments to review.

Mr. Cowan – said no closed unnoticed meetings can happen between 2 people.

Mr. Ross – Sheriff's office will they give presentation of their budget?

Commissioner Amsler – offers advice. Go through get consensus how you are going to receive info. Pick the certain are you want to review. Your emotions are very natural.

Mr. Passarelli – 2 meetings a month. The 1st and 3rd Monday of the month for July and August at 4pm. The meetings will be July 7, July 21, Aug 4 and Aug 18 at 4pm. All voted, no nays.

Ms. Flanagan – left @ 7:21pm

Mr. Morgan – wants info on county site for the state doge committee.

Mr. Mowatt – wants to divide up in teams and work on certain departments.

Ms. Arceneaux – we need to think about what we are doing before we get to the next meeting on July 7th.

Mr. Huberts – pcards

Mr. Kolasa – CIP projects, consistent with strategic plan & parks natural plan. Identify CIP projects as being completed.

Mr. Passafiume – Sheriff's department

Ms. Arceneaux – RFP contracts awarded to out-of-state or in-County, insurance requirements for procurement, personnel services, travel, paid position that don't put out their fair share of work.

Mr. Mowatt – contracting

Mr. Morgan – building, planning & zoning, facilities

Mr. Ross – landfill, parks & recreation, call center, boat ramps, piggy backing off of other Counties, why Counties aren't piggy backing off of us.

Mr. Passarelli – largest department of budgetary expense for efficiency gains for Sheriff's Office, education, Department of Public Works, special districts, Clerk IT, planning & zoning, Housing Authority

Ms. Flanagan – TBD

Mr. Passarelli – all nine committee members received meeting invite from the Sheriff's office for a meeting. County attorney advised only 1 person from committee should go due to sunshine law.

Mr. Passafiume – motion to send only 1 person to go to Sheriff's meeting. Voted 8- 0 we will vote on next meeting to send 1 person to Sheriff's meeting.

Mr. Passafiume – wanted a contact list made.

Mr. Mowatt – are we working in teams or individuals?

Mr. Passarelli – asked for motion for everyone to look into their own areas that they are interested in.

Mr. Mowatt – asked to hold off on motion. Made an investigative worksheet. He made the form available for the committee to use.

Mr. Rogers – We will establish a department heads list and what they oversee. We will provide the list to committee members on July 7th. We will provide org chart and purchasing manual. Setup up share site.

Mr. Rogers – if you send an email, send to department and cc Commissioner Amsler, Ms. Jessica, Mr. Rogers.

Mr. Morgan – enterprise department the generates revenue. How do you look at it? Do they get a pass if the generate more revenue?

Mr. Rogers - Rate studies that are done with the projected revenue. The fees are set. We might bring in more than we predict, with over 95% of the projected revenue being used for the next year's budget. The building department generates the most money.

Citizen comments

Mike Fulford – wants to thank the committee. Told the chair "Robert's Rules of Order". The general fund, Sheriff's office taking 20% of the fund and go after the Sheriff's budget before the budget is set.

Brittany – we need microphones, can't hear nobody.

Next Meeting

July 7, 2025 @ 4:00pm

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.