

DELEGATION ON GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY (DOGE) COMMITTEE

MONDAY, JULY 21, 2025 – 4:00 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
Jeffrey Rogers, Hernando County Administration
Toni Brady, Hernando County Administration
Jessica Wright, Hernando County Administration
Demetris Williams- Fagin, Hernando County Administration
Carla Rossiter-Smith, Hernando County Procurement
Doug Chorvat, Hernando County Clerk of Circuit Court & Comptroller
Joshua Stringfellow, Hernando County Clerk of Circuit Court & Comptroller

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 P.M. Introductions were made.

Meeting Minutes

Mr. Rogers - Invocation

Mr. Rogers - Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Passarelli – asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Ross motioned to approve minutes. Mr. Kolasa seconded the motion. All voted yes, no nays.

Ms. Rossiter-Smith – did presentation on Procurement Overview. See attached.

Mr. Huberts – What is the intent in using PCards?

Ms. Rossiter-Smith – You would use it for supplies, maintenance, and materials. The purchase must be within the allowable guidelines and thresholds.

Ms. Arceneaux – Do you do credit checks on employees who hold PCards?

Mr. Rogers – no

Mr. Kolasa – Even though only one quote is required for a purchase of \$1000 or less, this does not prevent the purchaser from obtaining more than one quote.

Mr. Ross – does Hernando County have Amazon Business account.

Ms. Rossiter-Smith – yes

Mr. Ross – talked about having a warehouse for office supplies.

Ms. Rossiter-Smith –

Mr. Huberts – Is there a policy on how we give contracts to the same business?

Ms. Rossiter-Smith – the lowest bidder gets the business.

Mr. Morgan – Is there a way to track an individual PCard that has been the most active for a month?

Ms. Rossiter-Smith – yes, you can track an individual PCard. We don't have a report to show the most active user.

Mr. Mowatt – showed up at 4:24pm.

Ms. Rossiter-Smith – explained rotational contracts for engineering and architects.

Mr. Stringfellow – Director of Financial Services gave an overview of Financial Services and how the Clerk's Office is the back end for the County. Procurement does the preparing; the Clerks Offices prepares the Annual Comprehensive Financial Plan. We also make sure the County follows the policies they put in place.

Ms. Arceneaux – How do you make sure that an overpayment is not made?

Mr. Stringfellow – we make sure that all the right people are signing off on it before payment is made.

Mr. Huberts – Do we bring in state auditors or external auditors?

Mr. Stringfellow – yes, we do. We do internal audits. Annual Comprehensive Financial Plan is an annual audit performed by independent auditors on a governmental entity's financial statements. They provide reasonable insurance for a 12-month period.

Mr. Huberts – Do we use the same external auditor, or does it change?

Mr. Stringfellow – normally you would use the same auditor and change every 10 years. The current auditors have completed their 5th year. They still have 5 more years on their contract left.

Mr. Passafiume – Do you think there is any process of the PCard you can cut out to be more efficient? Is there anything you can streamline?

Mr. Stringfellow – the County is going through a new ERP implementation system approved by the County in 2024. This will include all of Finance, Procurement and HR. This will streamline the process.

Mr. Passarelli – What does it cost to onboard a new employee with a PCard?

Mr. Stringfellow – no cost to add employee to receive a PCard.

Ms. Rossiter-Smith – no direct cost. It takes more than an hour to maybe 2 hours to onboard a new employee with PCard.

Mr. Kolasa – Wouldn't your PCard be controlled to your budget? You can only spend what your budget allows.

Mr. Stringfellow – yes, the PCard is just a purchasing method. You still must have a budget and need a supervisor to approve.

Mr. Passafiume – When the County receives a rebate where does it get allocated?

Mr. Rogers – the Board approves a budget in September and that is all the departments get for the year. If the County gets a rebate that comes back to the general fund.

Mr. Passarelli – tabled Item D, Item E, and Item F until after citizen comments.

Citizen Comments

Micheal Burmann – I ran for County Commissioner and came up short a few times. I proposed a radical change in the budget. Talked about County Budgets and Commissioners can start an incentive program using 100\$ from their paycheck.

Krystal – Wants DOGE committee to investigate hiring practices and overtime red flags.

Mike Casey – Complaint about DPW and Building Dept. Has trouble calling Building Dept. to schedule inspections.

Axl David – suggested to investigate Economic Development – waste fraud and abuse. Handed out attachment he wanted the DOGE committee to investigate. He asked Valerie Pinata to come give a presentation.

Mr. Passarelli – end of citizen comments, start Board responses to citizen comments.

Ms. Arceneaux – is there an ethics hotline.

Mr. Chorvat – there are two methods, such as, internal audit team and County Attorney Jon Jouben. No, there is not an anonymous reporting method.

Ms. Arceneaux – requested HR to do presentation on Onboarding and Hiring Practices.

Mr. Passafiume – this is a violation of 4th Amendment rights. When you want to report something, it should be anonymous.

Mr. Passarelli – moved on to Item D.

Mr. Mowatt – Community Services was going to be his first choice and Economic Development was his second choice. He would like to be Team 2 - Economic Development.

Mr. Passarelli – Team 2 – Mr. Mowatt, Mr. Passafiume, Mr. Huberts – Economic Development.

Mr. Passarelli – Team 3 – Kolasa, Ms. Flanagan, Mr. Passarelli – Department of Public Works.

Mr. Huberts – whichever team gets done first, will then move onto Community Services.

Ms. Arceneaux – asked about the Information Technology Director.

Mr. Rogers – George Welsted

Mr. Passarelli – Item E

Mr. Rogers – went over Engage Hernando website.

Ms. Wright – went over Hernando DOGE Information Requests. All requests have been fulfilled. Will follow up with putting citizen comments on Engage Hernando.

Commissioner Amsler – explained Sunshine Law. He thinks portal for Engage Hernando is great and got put together fast. Forming a new Board is not easy.

Mr. Kolasa – who had a chance to watch Budget Workshop.

Mr. Ross – left @ 5:44pm.

Recess @ 5:44pm for 10-minute break

Reconvene @ 5:55pm

Mr. Passarelli – Briefed Board on Starcom. He received overwhelming knowledge. They do a lot and do it proficiently. The Sheriff welcomes questions. Meetings lasted 2 hours.

Mr. Passarelli – The Board nominated Mr. Passafiume for next Starcom meeting. All voted yes, no nays.

Mr. Passarelli – received request from Mr. Ross to change meetings due to conflicting with City of Brooksville Meetings. Proposed second and fourth Monday at 4pm starting September going forward. Same location and same time.

Mr. Passarelli – asked for a motion to approve the meeting dates. Mr. Huberts motioned approving meetings dates. Ms. Flanagan seconded the motion. All voted yes, no nays.

Ms. Wright – went over what will be on next meeting. Teams will break up and meet for 45 minutes. Citizen comments need to come after approval of minutes and before presentations. Request HR Manual next meeting instead of HR Presentation. Will prepare meeting calendar for Board and hand out at next meeting. Will send email to Ms. Royal for Mr. Passafiume to attend Starcom.

Mr. Passarelli – motion to adjourn meeting. All voted yes, no nays.

Next Meeting

August 4, 2025 @ 4:00pm

The meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.