

**DELEGATION ON GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY (DOGE) COMMITTEE**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2026 – 4:00 P.M.**

**Meeting**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Attendees:**

Paul Passarelli, Chairman  
Douglas Huberts, Vice Chairman  
Brandon Mowatt, Committee Member  
Nordra Brown, Committee Member  
Robert Morgan, Committee Member  
Kevin Passafiume, Committee Member  
Richard Ross, Committee Member  
Keith Kolasa, Committee Member  
Christina Botto, Committee Member  
Ryan Amsler, Hernando County Commissioner  
Jeffrey Rogers, Hernando County Administration  
Jessica Wright, Hernando County Administration  
Dominique Holmes, Public Information Office  
Dawn Triconi – Brooksville Main Street

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

**Meeting Minutes**

**Mr. Passarelli** – Invocation

**Mr. Passarelli** – Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Botto – Brought

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

**Citizen Comments**

N/A

**Presentations:**

**\*Lobbyist by Dominique Holmes\***

**Mrs. Holmes** – Our lobbyist team provides updates and guidance on legislative matters affecting Hernando County, including information on how we receive funding. Recently, Representative Jeff Holcomb and Senator Ralph Massullo met with the lobbyists to discuss key issues. The team sends weekly updates, ensuring the County stays informed about daily changes in laws that are important for compliance and decision-making.

**Mr. Ross** - does our lobbyist have anything to do with unfunded mandates coming down from Tallahassee?

**Mr. Rogers** – Our lobbyist provides input on committee meetings, whether we agree with it or not, and keeps us notified of developments. Most of the important work happens behind the scenes to minimize impact on Hernando County. This includes identifying the sponsors of a bill, understanding their motivations, and determining the County’s position and reasons for supporting or opposing it.

**Mrs. Holmes** – The lobbyist is currently working on legislation related to electric vehicles, including tax considerations due to heavier vehicles. They are also monitoring policies on land application of biosolids, which are being spread on properties. The legislation addresses concerns such as biosolids potentially leaking into the aquifer, and there are efforts to establish safety and distance guidelines, such as keeping applications 3 to 5 miles away from schools.

**Mr. Morgan** – I know sunrise works for multiple Counties. Do they send the same information to everyone?

**Mrs. Holmes** – it’s both. They tailor reports to us also.

**Mr. Morgan** – are they lobbyist or are they consulting.

**Mr. Rogers** – Sunrise Consulting is retained by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), while Todd Lewis is hired by Rogers specifically for the legislative session and specializes in fire services. Each year, a large number of bills are filed related to fire services, including those addressing pensions, firefighter cancer coverage, and the CIP (Capital Improvement Program) index, which must be funded. Legislative decisions are typically signed in June, with discussions about fire rates taking place in May; however, officials rarely indicate any reduction in rates. Ad valorem fire rates on property taxes have not decreased, and the lobbyist team assists the County with negotiating new fire service contracts.

**Mr. Morgan** – do both lobbyists provide separate updates?

**Mr. Rogers** – no, the lobbyist primarily provides updates via telephone calls. Citizens can monitor/watch the Florida Channel daily to stay informed on legislative developments.

**\*Brooksville Main Street by Dawn Triconi\***

**Ms. Triconi** –The Tangerine Festival attracted approximately 89,000 attendees, selling out 5,000 pounds of product in just a few hours. The festival is organized by Brooksville Main Street (BMS), a private, not-for-profit organization with a Board of Directors focused on economic development and revitalization of downtown Brooksville. BMS works to support local businesses, organize events, and bring visitors to the area to strengthen the community’s economy. The organization has two paid employees—Event Director Cassandra and Executive Director Dawn—and relies on a large team of volunteers. One of the biggest questions each year is attendance, and they now use an AI system to track visitors, reporting 254,000 attendees from December 31, 2025, to January 31, 2026, with 63,000 specifically for Brooksville Main Street and the Tangerine Festival. Dawn focuses on organizing events that help the community and local businesses thrive, bringing people to the area while allowing businesses to capitalize on the increased foot traffic. She has been with BMS for almost three years, previously working with the Chamber of Commerce and United Way, and is passionate about seeing local businesses grow and succeed.

**Mr. Morgan** – why do we ask for allocations from the City and County instead of relying solely on private sponsorships?

**Ms. Triconi** – all the non-profits are chasing the same dollar.

**Mr. Ross** – Brooksville Main Street contributes more to the city than the Chamber of Commerce does.

**Mr. Mowatt** – to keep accreditation you have to work within the boundaries.

**Ms. Brown** – discussed email shared regarding Brooksville Main Street from a citizen's point of view.

**Mr. Morgan** – Reviewed and discussed a citizen comment related to Brooksville Main Street.

**Mr. Passarelli** – How businesses directly benefit from your events?

**Ms. Triconi** – attendance varies by event, typically drawing 160 guests inside the main area and 350 pop-up vendors, for a total of 510 participants.

**Mr. Ross** – who created the geo map? This represents a significant portion of the data.

**Mrs. Triconi** – she manages one of the largest geo maps in the state of Florida and remains committed to her mission. Her role is to raise awareness of BMS, showcasing the organization and increasing its visibility and engagement within the community.

**Mr. Passarelli** – how do you get your accreditation?

**Ms. Triconi** – you must provide documentation such as budgets, strategic plans, and other relevant materials. If your organization aligns with BMS America's standards, you will receive accreditation. If requirements are not met, she risks financial loss.

**Mr. Passarelli** – what money?

**Ms. Triconi** – sponsorship money, grant money.

**Mr. Passarelli** – explained to new member about team sessions and that she would be on team 1.

### **Team Sessions**

**N/A**

### **DOGE Information Requests Update and other communications:**

**Mrs. Wright** – provided an update on outstanding information requests.

- **Mr. Passarelli** – library department meeting
- **Mr. Passafiume** – veterans department meeting
- **Mr. Kolasa** – waterways department meeting

### **DOGE member comments:**

**Ms. Botto** – your expected to be at every meeting. talked about attendance.

**Mr. Kolasa** – asked chair when does he need presentations to take to BOCC.

**Commissioner Amsler** – suggested to March 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Mr. Passarelli** – standing invitation open to anyone to attend Starcom.

### **Next Meeting**

February 23, 2026 @ 4:00pm

**Mr. Passarelli** – asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Mr. Ross** has motioned to adjourn the meeting. **Mr. Morgan** seconded the motion. All voted yes, no nays.

**The meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.**