



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Children's Service Council of Martin County, 101 SE Central Pkwy, Stuart, FL 34994

Present: Dan Romence, Eric Kiehn, Lauren Abbott, Angela Browning, PhD., Brian Bauer, Marshall Critchfield, Patrick Gleason, Ransom "Reed" Hartman, Steven Hartz, David Powers, Ron Rose, Tyson Waters, Ed Weinberg, Commissioner Blake Capps, Mayor Carmine Dipaolo

Excused: Susan Rabinowitz, William "David" Snyder, Commissioner Laura Giobbi

Staff: William Corbin (Executive Director), Troy McDonald (Director, Business Retention and Expansion), Brittany Truong (Office Administrator), Ken Norman (Counsel), George Stokus, Ike Crumpler

1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call: Dan Romence called the meeting to order at 8:33 AM. A quorum was established by roll call.

2. Comments

I. **Public Comments:** None

II. **Partner Comments:** None

III. **Executive Director Report:** William Corbin went over the Executive Director Report.

- **VOI Referendum (Ad Valorem Tax Exemption Incentive)**

- There is a referendum on the ballot of the upcoming election at the Village of Indiantown (there is no in-person voting; voters have been asked to return vote-by-mail ballots they received by August 12). The referendum asks residents if they would like to adopt the ad valorem tax exemption business incentive as an economic development tool for use by the Village. The incentive is authorized by Florida Statute 196.1995 for new or expanding businesses. This statute allows counties and municipalities to grant tax exemptions to encourage economic development, but only after approval by a referendum within jurisdiction. The incentive features up to a 10-year exemption for both real and personal property taxes. The exemption only applies to improved value of real property and new Tangible Personal Property assets (TPP). If adopted, the exemption has a 10-year horizon. Martin



County voters adopted the incentive for a second time in 2020 by 62.6% (20,356 yes/12156 no). I was asked by the Village Council To make a presentation on July 10th giving an overview and summary of the proposed incentive, in order clarify what the exemption is what it is not.

- **SFMA Awards Event**
 - on June 26, BDB staff attended the South Florida Manufacturer's Association Recognition of Excellence annual awards event. Three Martin County companies were finalists in the awards categories: Daher Aerospace, HOG Technologies, and Power Systems Manufacturing .
- **CRE Forum**
 - On July 17 the BDB successfully put on its Commercial Real Estate Forum. The theme was Horizons;What's.Next.for.Local.Real.Estate?The.Economy.and.Martin.County's.Future. Several dozen real estate professionals and individuals from the business community attended the event, which featured a variety of topics, from an update of the commercial real estate landscape to strategies on navigating zoning and land use, to a panel discussion on the relationship between transportation, infrastructure, and development.
- **MIATC Annual Meeting**
 - On July 15th I attended the Marine Industry Association of the Treasure Coast's annual meeting. The event was held at The Flagler Center, in downtown Stuart, and featured a celebration of the past year's accomplishments, a preview of the next year's initiatives/goals, and the welcoming of incoming board members.
- **Hinckley Yachts Ribbon-cutting Event**
 - On July 10th I had the pleasure of delivering remarks for a ribbon-cutting ceremony in celebration of Hinckley Yacht Services' new 44,000 square foot category-5 hurricane rated storage facility. The Stuart/Martin County Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with their design-build firm, Ahrens Companies, organized the event. The entire Stuart-based group of employees attended, along with appointed County leadership (County Administrator Don Donaldson



and Assistant County Administrator George Stokus). Commissioner Ed Ciampi delivered closing remarks.

3. Executive Committee Meeting July 18, 2025, Recap: Dan Romence provided the recap of the Executive Committee Meeting on Friday July 18, 2025.

- I. Executive Director Annual Evaluation:** The Executive Committee presented the BDBMC Board with their evaluation of William Corbin, Executive Director. Ranson “Reed” Hartman moved to accept the evaluation and to approve the Executive Committee’s recommendations of the Executive Committee Motion was seconded by Patrick Gleason. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Approvals

I. Minutes

- I. Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – June 25, 2025:** Eric Keihn moved to approve the Board of Directors Meeting minutes for June 25, 2025, and was seconded by Steve Hartz. The motion passed unanimously.

- II. Financials:** William Corbin, Executive Director, presented and summarized the financials. Ed Weinberg moved to approve of the Financials, and it was seconded by Lauren Abbott. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Reports & Presentations

- a. Employment Report** – Christina Coble with CareerSource updated the Board with the current employment numbers for Martin County and the Research Coast.
- b. Business Attraction Update** – William Corbin, Executive Director, provided an update on attraction projects and leads for Martin County.
- c. BRE Update** – Troy McDonald, Director of Business Retention and Expansion, provided an update.
- d. Programming Update** – William Corbin, Executive Director provide an update on programing and the Annual Awards Luncheon.
- e. Martin County Economic Toolkit 2025 Update** – George Stokus updated the Board on the proposed changes to the Economic Toolkit. The Board requested Martin County include information on the Foreign Trade Zone in the revised toolkit.

6. Board Member Items & Discussions

7. Comments

- a. **Public:** None
- b. **BDBMC Partners:** None

8. Adjourn: 10:06 am

Approved by:



Dan Romence, President Elect

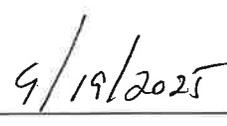


Date

Prepared by:



Troy McDonald, Director of BRE



Date

Minutes Approved on 8/27/2025