



**Hendry-LaBelle Recreation Board**  
**P.O. Box 1760**  
**LaBelle, FL. 33935**  
**(863)675-5347 - Office (863)675-0390 – Fax**

September 23, 2025

A regular meeting of the Hendry-LaBelle Recreation Board was held on the above date at 6:00 PM at the Hendry-LaBelle Recreation Office, 310 Cowboy Way, LaBelle, Florida.

County Commissioner/Chairman, Emory “Rowdy” Howard, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Opening Prayer was led by County Commissioner Mitchell Wills.

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present were, County Commissioner/Chairman Emory “Rowdy” Howard, County Commissioner Mitchell Wills, School Board Member Paul Samerdyke, City Commissioner Bobbie Spratt, City Commissioner Jackie Ratica, and Director Steven Lynn.

Bids: None.

Consent Agenda: Approval of August 21, 2025 Minutes and bills:

***School Board Member Paul Samerdyke asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. City Commissioner Bobbie Spratt Seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.***

Awards, Appearances, and Presentations: None

Correspondence: None

BOBBIE SPRATT  
City Commissioner

PAUL SAMERDYKE  
School Board Member

EMORY “ROWDY” HOWARD  
County Commissioner /Chairman

MITCHELL WILLS  
County Commissioner

JACKIE RATICA  
City Commissioner

Staff Reports: Director Lynn presented four budget options for the upcoming fiscal year. City Commissioner Bobbie Spratt made a motion to approve the option that includes no new hires and allocates Director Lynn’s salary with a 30/70 split—30% from the West Rec budget and 70% from the Forrey budget. Maddison's salary will be allocated 100% to the West Rec budget. All other staff salaries will be allocated 90% to West Rec and 10% to Forrey. The proposed budget sets the West Rec revenue at \$707,781.25 and Forrey revenue at \$612,593.75.

The budget also includes a proposal to contract out mowing services. This item will be revisited at a later date to determine whether to proceed. County Commissioner Mitchell Wills recommended exploring the use of inmate labor for mowing before making a final decision.

The motion was seconded by School Board Member Paul Samerdyke and passed unanimously.

Director Lynn addressed ongoing issues at Civic Park, where vehicles continue to park on the grass despite posted “No Parking” signs, damaging the grounds. He proposed installing guard rails to prevent this. County Commissioner Mitchell Wills advised Director Lynn to coordinate with Engineer Shane Parker to obtain the necessary specifications.

Hearing of the public: Sherri Walker of LaBelle Family Livestock expressed her appreciation to Mr. Vaughan from Special Districts and County Commissioner Emory “Rowdy” Howard for resolving scheduling conflicts.

She also requested additional dirt for the arena to improve ground safety. Commissioner Howard suggested that she work with Steven to find a temporary fix to ensure safety until funding becomes available to replace the dirt with rodeo-grade clay. Commissioner Wills recommended reaching out to larger companies, such as Caplin Leveling, to help grade the rodeo grounds and address low spots.

Alisha Gibson addressed the board to inquire whether Florida Southwestern State College (FSW) has an agricultural program that could assist with maintaining the game fields. After some discussion, it was clarified that FSW currently does not have an active agricultural program, though there may be one established in the near future.

Reports and other Business: Tommy Vaughan with Special Districts requested board approval to pay \$2,590 to H.L. Bennett to survey Felda Park in preparation for the FRDAP grant-funded pavilion to be constructed there. City Commissioner Bobbie Spratt made a motion to approve the

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City Commissioner

request, which was seconded by County Commissioner Mitchell Wills. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Additions: None.

## ADJOURNMENT

County Commissioner Emory “Rowdy” Howard adjourned the meeting. The meeting was dismissed at 6:57 p.m.

BOBBIE SPRATT  
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