Emerald Coast Republican Liberty Caucus
President Sherry Chapman
Vice President Rene Johnmeyer
Treasurer David Farrow
5March2026

Sherry Chapman Called the Meeting to Order
George Oedsma Prayer
George Oedsma Pledge

✨ Summary

The meeting addressed local political and community issues, including candidate introductions for the County Commission, city celebration plans, school system concerns, legislative updates, election-related bills, water management, community events, and school board accountability. Key decisions included moving forward with city celebrations, addressing school discipline, supporting candidate vetting, and responding to legislative and water management challenges. The importance of community involvement and transparency in local governance was emphasized throughout.

📋 Outline

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes • 0:00:01

- Christa E Waite opened the meeting and requested approval for the minutes posted online.
- Attendees acknowledged and approved the meeting minutes.

2. Introduction of County Commission Candidates • 0:00:42

- Jeff Ates and Ray Eddington were introduced as candidates for District 2 and District 4 County Commission.
- Each candidate was given five minutes to present their platforms.

3. City Celebration Plans • 0:02:15

- Marilyn reported on city council plans for a celebration, including fireworks and a memorial time capsule.
- A pilot program for patriotic home decorations will begin in June.
- There was a suggestion to include businesses in the decoration contest.

4. Concerns About School Discipline • 0:15:26

- David Farrow highlighted serious issues in the school system, such as high teacher turnover and lack of discipline.
- He stressed the need for a board member outside the current system to drive necessary changes.

5. Community Engagement and Candidate Support • 0:20:21

- Discussion about the need for a candidate to oppose the current school board member, Carol Boston.
- Emphasis on cultivating and supporting potential candidates.
- The importance of community involvement in the electoral process was highlighted.

6. Legislative Updates • 0:28:07

- Diagonal provided updates on five bills in the legislature.
- Only House Bill 991 has passed, which was criticized as a bad bill.
- Concerns were raised about the bill's implications for local governance.

7. Election Bill Discussions • 0:28:46

- Discussion focused on House Bill 991, which proposes a clear ballot audit but lacks certification and independence.
- Concerns about non-citizens receiving vote-by-mail ballots, with over a million non-citizens reportedly having access.
- The Senate removed the clear ballot audit from the bill, seen as a positive development.
- Uncertainty remains about the bill's future and its impact on the upcoming election.

8. Water Management Issues • 0:46:08

- Reports of low water levels leading to the injection of treated wastewater into water sources.
- Strong opposition to this practice and emphasis on maintaining clean water supplies.
- Call for community awareness and control over water management, including revisiting approved housing developments.

9. Community Engagement and Events • 0:50:02

- A homestead fair is scheduled for March 21st at the county fairgrounds, focusing on self-sufficiency skills.
- Reiteration of the importance of candidate vetting and a call for volunteers for vetting committees.
- Emphasis on community involvement in upcoming events to foster engagement and education.

10. Election Timeline and Candidate Vetting • 0:51:43

- The committee aims to finalize candidate reports by April 15th for early ballots.
- Nine candidates are needed for both the school board and county commission.
- Request for fairness in candidate management.
- A sign-up sheet will be circulated for those interested in the vetting process.

11. School Board Meeting Issues • 0:54:29

- School board is discussing mandated changes to school hours due to safety concerns.
- Ongoing issues with reporting infractions, especially sexual misconduct, within schools.
- Responsibility for reporting lies with the first person aware of the incident; failure to report is a significant concern.

12. Accountability of School Board Members • 1:01:15

- School board members must be held accountable for not addressing violations of the governor's directives regarding educational materials.
- Call for increased transparency and interaction between school board members and the public.
- Importance of vetting candidates committed to accountability and public engagement.

13. Concerns Over School Board Operations • 1:03:02

- Perception that school board members are not adequately engaging with the public during meetings.
- Superintendent is reportedly polling board members to control meeting discussions, limiting public input.
- Need for school board members to communicate openly with the community.

14. Voter Registration and Petition Updates • 1:13:13

- New rules require verification of voter addresses for those who have not voted in three election cycles.
- Active voters must respond to address verification notices to maintain their status.
- Discussion of the implications of these changes on petition collection and voter engagement.

Motion to approve minutes Sharon Hawthorne and Michelle Wells

Motion to Adjourn Diane Warner and Rene Johnmeyer

https://webapp.sembly.ai/minutes-public/73f-66c4a320b8cbd4325a2fabd3972fc21e27db5c45

Next Meeting 2 April 2026

SC/cew