

**REGULAR MEETING  
LEVY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FEBRUARY 16, 2021**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Levy County Commissioners was held on February 16, 2021 at 6:00 P.M. in the Meeting Room of the Levy County Annex Building with the following Commissioners present:

Chairman John Meeks  
Comm. Matt Brooks  
Comm. Rock Meeks  
Comm. Lilly Rooks  
Comm. Mike Joyner

Also present were:

County Attorney – Anne Bast Brown  
County Coordinator – Wilbur Dean

Chairman John Meeks called the Meeting to order at 6:02 P.M. Comm. Rock Meeks gave the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Comm. Brooks.

**EXPENDITURES**

Comm. Joyner made a motion to approve the following expenditures presented for payment. Second was made by Comm. Brooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

<b>CHECK NUMBER</b>	<b>141026-141171</b>
<b>FUND</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
GENERAL REVENUE	50,161.40
ROAD	37,359.78
SHIP	5,000.00
MOSQUITO CONTROL	674.41
COURT TECH/CRIM PREV	15,667.47
TRANSPORTATION	3,519.77
COURT FACILITIES	983.24
MISC GRANTS	7,921.71
EMS	37,624.97
FIRE	166,238.01
TOURIST DEVELOPMENT	1,104.43
UTILITIES	1,719.81
ADD COURT COSTS	1,913.14
BLDG INSPECT & SAFETY	4,755.71
RESTORE ACT	8,656.88
CAPITAL PROJECTS	34,263.46
ROAD IMPRV & RESTORE	44,622.09
LANDFILL	77,506.97
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 499,693.25</b>
<b>EFT/ACH PAYMENT</b>	<b>\$ 297,793.29</b>

## MINUTES

The minutes for the Regular Meeting held November 3, 2020 were presented for Board approval.

Comm. Brooks made a motion to approve the minutes for the Regular Board meeting held November 3, 2020 as presented. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

## AGENDA ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, MODIFICATIONS

Comm. Rooks made a motion to approve the agenda with no changes. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

Duane Schwingel spoke to the Board requesting they consider taking whatever necessary steps are required to declare Levy County as a "Constitutional Sanctuary County".

An email from Steven Withrow was received and read into public record by Comm. John Meeks. Mr. Withrow made an inquiry of a map identifying the jurisdiction of each Commissioner. Comm. John Meeks directed a response be sent to Mr. Withrow advising him of where a map could be obtained.

## PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Members of the audience wishing to speak regarding the item to be presented were sworn in by Atty. Brown. Comm.

John Meeks asked if any Commissioners had ex-parte communication concerning the item to be presented. Comm. Rock Meeks, Comm. Rooks, Comm. John Meeks, Comm. Joyner, and Comm. Brooks stated they had ex-parte with individuals involved in the Solar Power Generating Facility project.

Stacey Hectus, Director

**Public Hearing** - Ms. Hectus presented the request for a conditional use approval from the Levy County Board of County Commissioners' for a Solar Power Generating Facility located East of Chiefland. This project encompasses 14 parcels of varying acres with a total of 715 acres in all.

Erick Miarka, Senior Development Manager with Savion, LLC gave a presentation detailing how the 715 acres would be used to create a 74.9 megawatt alternating current (MW AC) Solar Power Generating Facility. He also explained how the facility would be de-commissioned and returned to farm land at a later date.

Tim Perry, an environmental land use attorney with the Gardner, Bist Law Firm in Tallahassee spoke on behalf of Savion, LLC as their project attorney

Darren Stowe, Principal Planner with Savion, LLC also spoke to the Board.

Comm. John Meeks asked if there were any audience members wishing to speak for or against the item presented:

An email received from Tori Hardee Noellsch, daughter of Chris Hardee was read into public record by Comm. John Meeks.

Audience members who spoke: Chris Hardee, John Fisher, Loran Brookins spoke in favor of the project. Linda Cooper expressed concerns of the efficiency and cost effectiveness of this project. Renate Cannon spoke of requirements by a developing company for detailed plans for the decommissioning of this type of project. Her concerns were addressed by Atty. Brown.

Comm. Joyner made a motion to adopt the Order to Approve with conditions for decommissioning. Second was made by Comm. Brooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

## **BUILDING & ZONING**

David Meyer, Development Director

- A. Public Hearing – Requesting Board approval for Hardship Variance Ha. Va. 01-21 for Amanda Vey Smith. The Hardship Variance is to permit a second dwelling due to a medical need on a parcel of land lying in the NW ¼ of Section 19, Township 11S, Range 15E, in Levy County. Said parcel contains 10 acres more or

Comm. John Meeks asked if anyone in the audience would like to speak regarding this item. Petitioner Amanda Vey Smith spoke.

Comm. Rooks made a motion to approve Hardship Variance Ha. Va. 01-21 as presented. Second was made by Comm. Joyner and the MOTION CARRIES.

- B. Requesting Board approval of Resolution 2021-017; amending the final budget for fiscal year 2021 in the amount of \$28,000.

Comm. Rock Meeks made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-017 as presented. Second was made by Comm. Brooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

## **COMM. JOHN MEEKS, CHAIRMAN**

Comm. John Meeks stated he had been contacted by the City of Cedar Key regarding setting a meeting date with the City Commissioners on April 6, 2021 or April 13, 2021. The Commissioners agreed to set the meeting date and time for April 6, 2021 after the Regular Board meeting beginning at 1:00 P.M.

## **PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS**

Comm. Brooks requested Board approval of Proclamation 2021-018 recognizing February, 2021 as Black History Month and recognizing African American achievements. Comm. Brooks then read the Proclamation into public record.

Comm. Rock Meeks made a motion to approve Proclamation 2021-018 as requested. Second was made by Comm. Rooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

Comm. Brooks then recognized D.C. Floyd, owner of Country Boy Cuts, a barber shop in Williston.

## **LEVY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Sheriff Bobby McCallum

Requesting Board approval of a Budget Amendment, amending the final budget for the Sheriff's Office in the amount of \$165,096. This is an appropriation of Federal Equitable Sharing funds transferred to the Board on September 30, 2020.

Comm. Joyner made a motion to approve the Budget Amendment for the Sheriff's Office as requested. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

### **COUNTY COORDINATOR**

Wilbur Dean

- A. Requesting Board approval for Meridian to re-apply for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Re-investment Grant (CJMHSAs), authorization for the Chairman to sign the Grant Agreement, when completed, and approval for the Grant Agreement to be returned for ratification by the Board along with approval of an updated Letter of Commitment.

Atty. Brown explained it is not necessary for the Board to approve Meridian re-applying for the Grant, only the updated Letter of Commitment. The Agreement would be brought before the Board for ratification at a later date.

Comm. Rock Meeks made a motion to authorize the Chairman to sign the updated Letter of Commitment as requested. Second was made by Comm. Rooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

- B. Mr. Dean requested direction from the Board for proceeding with the selection of one or more franchises for Solid Waste services.

Explanation of buy-out requirements for current franchises and the required 3-year notice if the Board chooses to proceed with selection of other Solid Waste service providers was provided by Atty. Brown.

Comm. Brooks made a motion to "not" proceed with pursuing franchises for Solid Waste services. Second was made by Comm. Joyner and the MOTION CARRIES.

Audience member Linda Cooper spoke regarding this item and requested the Landfill Assessment fee be reduced this year.

- C. TRANSIT - Mr. Dean requested on behalf of Connie Conley, Transportation Director, Board approval for the extension of the 2020 5311 Public Transportation Agreement until March 31, 2023.

Comm. Rooks made a motion to approve submittal of the Amendment for Extension of the 2020 5311 Public Transportation Agreement as requested. Second was made by Comm. Brooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

## **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

Mr. Dean requested on behalf of John MacDonald, Board ratification of LSE Extension Emergency Declaration 2021-012 and Emergency Declaration 2021-013.

Comm. Brooks made a motion to ratify Emergency Declaration 2021-012 and Emergency Declaration 2021-013 as presented. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

## **ROAD DEPARTMENT**

- A. Mr. Dean requested on behalf of Alice LaLonde, Board approval to apply electronically for a State Grant for C346 from US 19 to SR 129 and approval for Mrs. LaLonde to sign the application.

Comm. Rooks made a motion to approve application for a State Grant for C346 and approval for Mrs. LaLonde to sign the application as requested. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

- B. Requesting Board approval to apply electronically for a State Grant for C337 from SR121 to CR336 and for Mrs. LaLonde to sign the application.

Comm. Rooks made a motion to approve application for a State Grant for C337 and approval for Mrs. LaLonde to sign the application as requested. Second was made by Comm. Joyner and the MOTION CARRIES.

## **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

Mitch Harrell, Director

- A. Requesting Board approval and the Chairman's signature on Resolution 2021-015 and acceptance of the County Award Grant from the Department of Health in the amount of \$5,970.

Comm. Rock Meeks made a motion to approve with the Chairman's signature on Resolution 2021-015 and acceptance of the County Award Grant from the Department of Health as requested. Second was made by Comm. Rooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

- B. Requesting ratification by the Board of the Medicaid Provider Agreement and the Fingerprint Exempt Form for the Medicaid renewal, required for billing.

Comm. Rooks made a motion to ratify the Medicaid Provider Agreement and the Fingerprint Exempt Form as requested. Second was made by Comm. Brooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

**SHIP**

Marlon Gayle, Housing Planner

Providing the Board with information of potential Coronavirus funding through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. He inquired if the Board would be interested in applying for funds and, if so, what category.

Comm. Rooks made a motion to schedule a Public Hearing during the next Regular Board Meeting to discuss applying for Mapping for Broadband funding through the Coronavirus funding through the CDBG program. Second was made by Comm. Brooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Dean stated Stacey Hectus would be the lead staff person for this item.

Audience member Linda Cooper spoke regarding this item.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Renate Cannon stated she attended the meeting of the Solar Project last week and was pleased at how well the meeting was conducted.

**COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

**Comm. Rock** Meeks stated he had been contacted regarding an Amnesty Day at the Landfill for the City of Otter Creek for a clean-up day they will be scheduling.

Mr. Dean stated he would speak with Mr. Hastings and give some options for the City of Otter Creek to consider. A motion could then be done at a later meeting.

**Comm. Joyner** and **Comm. John Meeks** reported the Beast Feast held recently was a success and thanked everyone who came.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COMMISSION, THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:50 P.M.

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
LEVY COUNTY, FL

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Clerk of Court, Danny J. Shipp

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Chairman, John Meeks