SPECIAL MEETING AND BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING #1

LEVY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

The Special Meeting and Budget Public Hearing #1 of the Board of County Commissioners was held on September 8, 2026 at 5:01 P.M. in the BoCC meeting room at the Levy County Government Center.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Tim Hodge called the meeting to order at 5:01 P.M.

INVOCATION: Given by Comm. Meeks

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Comm. Kennedy

ROLL CALL:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

District 1: Vice Chairman Charlie Kennedy
District 2: Comm. Rock Meeks
District 4: Chairman Tim Hodge
District 5: Comm. Johnny Hiers

COMMISSIONERS NOT PRESENT:

District 3: Comm. Desiree Mills

ALSO PRESENT:

County Manager, Mary-Ellen Harper

County Attorney, (Constangy, Brooks, Smith & Prophete LLP)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

- **Amendments:** Move item #5 to item #1(A)

  Move item #6 to item #2(A)

- **Action Taken:**
  - Motion Comm. Hiers motion to approve
  - Second Comm. Kennedy
- **Vote Outcome** 4-0 motion passes

RECOGNIZE ELECTED OFFICIALS: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

BUSINESS OR INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

ORIGINAL AGENDA ITEM # 5

1. PUBLIC HEARING Approve RESOLUTION NUMBER 2026-40: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE FOR LEVY COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2026 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. *(Audio 05:07)*

- **Presenter:** LEVY COUNTY FINANCE AND ADMIN- Kari Bastow, Interim Director
- **Discussion:** Approve proposed millage rate of 8.5
- **Public Comment:**

  Susie Billings (Williston) – Asking for clarification on millage rate change conversation between Comm. Meeks and Comm. Hiers.

- **Action Taken:** Comm. Hiers motions to drop proposed millage rate of 8.5 down to 8.25
  - Motion Comm. Hiers motion to approve
  - Second Comm. Kennedy
- **Vote Outcome** 4-0 motion passes

ORIGINAL AGENDA ITEM # 1

2. PUBLIC HEARING Approve RESOLUTION NO. 2026-35: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA, RELATING TO THE PROVISION OF FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES, FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS IN THE LEVY COUNTY MUNICIPAL SERVICE BENEFIT UNIT FOR FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES; PROVIDING AUTHORITY, DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION; CONFIRMING THE PRELIMINARY RATE RESOLUTION; REIMPOSING FIRE PROTECTION ASSESSMENTS AGAINST ASSESSED PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN THE LEVY COUNTY MUNICIPAL SERVICES BENEFIT UNIT FOR FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2026; APPROVING THE ASSESSMENT ROLL; PROVIDING FOR COLLECTION; AND PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE. *(Audio 18:50)*

- **Presenter:** LEVY COUNTY MANAGER – Mary-Ellen Harper, County Manager
- **Discussion:** Keep same rate as last year of $250
- **Action Taken:**
  - Motion Comm. Kennedy motion to approve
  - Second Comm. Hiers
- **Vote Outcome** 4-0 motion passes

ORIGINAL AGENDA ITEM # 2

3. PUBLIC HEARING Approve RESOLUTION NO. 2026-36: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA, RELATING TO THE PROVISION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES, FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS IN THE UNINCORPORATED AND ALL INCORPORATED AREAS OF LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA; PROVIDING AUTHORITY, DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION; CONFIRMING THE PRELIMINARY RATE RESOLUTION; LEVYING EMS TAX ASSESSMENTS AGAINST BENEFITTED PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN LEVY COUNTY PURSUANT TO SECTION 125.271, FLORIDA STATUTES, TO FUND THE PROVISION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2026; APPROVING THE EMS TAX ASSESSMENT ROLL AND PROVIDING FOR COLLECTION; PROVIDING FOR APPLICATION OF ASSESSMENT PROCEEDS ; PROVIDING FOR EFFECT; AND PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE. *(Audio 20:34)*

- **Presenter:** LEVY COUNTY MANAGER – Mary-Ellen Harper, County Manager
- **Discussion:** Keep same rate as last year of $200
- **Public Comment:** None
- **Action Taken:**
    - Motion Comm. Kennedy motion to approve
    - Second Comm. Meeks
- **Vote Outcome** 4-0 motion passes

ORIGINAL AGENDA ITEM # 3

4. PUBLIC HEARING Approve RESOLUTION NO. 2026-37: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA, RELATING TO PROVISION OF ROADWAY MAINTENANCE SERVICES ON SUBDIVISION ROADS; PROVIDING AUTHORITY, DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION; CONFIRMING THE PRELIMINARY RATE RESOLUTION; APPROVING THE ROADWAY MAINTENANCE SERVICE ASSESSMENT ROLL; PROVIDING FOR THE REIMPOSITION OF THE ROADWAY MAINTENANCE SERVICE ASSESSMENTS; PROVIDING FOR COLLECTION; AND PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE. *(Audio 22:39)*

- **Presenter:** LEVY COUNTY MANAGER – Mary-Ellen Harper, County Manager
- **Discussion:** Letters will be sent out notifying property owners that this assessment will start being charged. This assessment was put on hold years ago due to surplus.
- **Public Comment:** None
- **Action Taken:**
    - Motion Comm. Meeks motion to approve
    - Second Comm. Kennedy
- **Vote Outcome** 4-0 motion passes

ORIGINAL AGENDA ITEM # 4

5. PUBLIC HEARING Approve RESOLUTION NO. 2026-38: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA, RELATING THE DISPOSAL OF SOLID WASTE AND RECOVERED MATERIALS IN THE UNINCORPORATED AND ALL INCORPORATED AREAS OF LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA; PROVIDING AUTHORITY, DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION; CONFIRMING THE PRELIMINARY RATE RESOLUTION; REIMPOSING SOLID WASTE SERVICE ASSESSMENTS AGAINST RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN LEVY COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2026; APPROVING THE RATE OF ASSESSMENT; APPROVING THE ASSESSMENT ROLL; PROVIDING FOR COLLECTION. *(Audio)*

- **Presenter:** LEVY COUNTY MANAGER – Mary-Ellen Harper, County Manager
- **Discussion:** Rate raised to $140
- **Public Comment:**

  Ranate Cannon (Chiefland) - What is the reason for the rate increase?

  Shawn Wolford (Bronson) - Scrap metal should be making landfill more money.

David Sharpe (Chiefland) - Landfill needs to do away with honor system and all funds need to be accounted for.

Linda Cooper (Williston) - $140 is not ok, other things need to be cut instead of raising rate.

Karen Adams (Chiefland) – Commericial haulers will tax the customers.

- **Action Taken:**
  - Motion — Comm. Kennedy motion to approve
  - Second — Comm. Meeks
- **Vote Outcome** — 4-0 motion passes

- **At 5:50 P.M., Chair declared a recess for the purpose of drafting amendments to agenda item 5 and 6.**
- **Meeting reconvened at 6:00 P.M. Picked**

ORIGINAL AGENDA ITEM # 5 CONTINUATION

6. PUBLIC HEARING Approve RESOLUTION NUMBER 2026-40: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE PROPOSED AMENDED MILLAGE RATE FOR LEVY COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2026 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

- **Resolution updated to the amended new rate of 8.25.**
- **Presenter:** LEVY COUNTY FINANCE AND ADMIN- Kari Bastow, Interim Director
- **Discussion:** Updated new millage rate of 8.2500 which is 3.8128 % higher than the rollback millage rate of 7.9470 mills.
- **Action Taken:**
  - Motion — Comm. Kennedy motion to approve
  - Second — Comm. Meeks
- **Vote Outcome** — 4-0 motion passes

NON AGENDA ITEM ADDED

7. Item is required to approve a motion so that original item 6 conforms to the amendments made to the millage. Amendments in the millage called for a recalculation of the budget. (*Audio 49:27)*

- **Presenter:** LEVY COUNTY FINANCE AND ADMIN- Kari Bastow, Interim Director
- **Discussion:**
- **Action Taken:**
  - Motion — Comm. Kennedy motion to approve
  - Second — Comm. Hiers

- **Vote Outcome** 4-0 motion passes

ORIGINAL AGENDA ITEM # 6

8. PUBLIC HEARING Approve RESOLUTION NUMBER 2026-41 AS AMENDED A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR LEVY COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2026, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. *(Audio 49:28)*

- **Presenter:** LEVY COUNTY FINANCE AND ADMIN- Kari Bastow, Interim Director
- **Discussion:** New budget after amendments of the millage rate is $201,120,309.00
- **Action Taken:**
  - Motion Comm. Hiers motion to approve
  - Second Comm. Kennedy
- **Vote Outcome** 4-0 motion passes

PUBLIC COMMENTS: *(Audio 52:30)*

Project link member (Gainesville) - A colliation partnered with UF wanted information on who to contact regarding working with the some of the BoCC departments on their projects.

Shelly Young (Williston) – Budget information on BoCC deparments

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BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COMMISSION THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 6:09 P.M.

ATTEST: BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

LEVY COUNTY, FL

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Clerk of Court, Matt Brooks Chairman, Tim Hodge

Minutes Submitted by: Matt Brooks, Clerk of Court & Comptroller
Date Submitted: 09/08/2026