

REGULAR MEETING
LEVY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
June 2, 2026

The Regular Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners was held on June 2, 2026, at 9:00 A.M. in the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) meeting room at the Levy County Government Center.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Tim Hodge called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

INVOCATION: Given by Commissioner Hiers

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Commissioner Mills

ROLL CALL

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

District 1: Vice Chairman Charlie Kennedy
District 2: Commissioner Rock Meeks
District 3: Commissioner Desiree Mills
District 4: Chairman Tim Hodge
District 5: Commissioner Johnny Hiers

ALSO PRESENT:

County Manager, Mary-Ellen Harper
County Attorney, Byron Flagg (Gray Robinson)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

- **Action:** Remove item #11
- Amendments:
 - o Motion Commissioner Mills motion to approve
 - o Second Commissioner Kennedy
 - o Vote Outcome 5-0 motion passes

RECOGNIZE ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, Matt Brooks, recognized Diana Sanchez, Finance Director, with a Certificate of Appreciation for her diligent service to the citizens of Levy County as she is set to depart as an employee from his team later this month. Diana will help with the transition once a new Finance Director is hired.

Williston Interim City Manager/Fire Chief, Mike Rolls greeted the Commissioners and public.

PUBLIC COMMENTSS:

Renate Cannon (Chiefland) – Asked if burn ban is still in effect.

Laura Catlow (Bronson) – Expressed concerns of data centers are coming to surrounding counties. Urged Commissioners to consider a moratorium similar to other counties. Provided documentation and legislative references (SB 484).

BUSINESS OR INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

1. Receive a Presentation of Levy County – BOCC Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2025, Audited Financial Statements. (Audio 12:36)
- **Presenter:** Brendan McKittrick (CPA, CISA), a Partner with James Moore presented the results of the audited financial statements for FY 2025.
 - **Discussion:** Mr McKittrick presented an Unmodified (clean) audit opinion – best possible outcome. No findings in federal/single audit. One internal control issue: adjustments needed to be

made in Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (SEFA). Expects that it will be corrected next year.

- Financial Condition:
 - General Fund Balance: \$21.3 Million
 - Fund Balance Ratio: 48.4% Fund Balance as of 2025 Expenditures and Transfers Out. Well above the GFOA recommended minimum of 16.7%
- Other Notes:
 - Landfill fund shows deficit due to:
 - Accounting estimates (closure liability, pension allocation)
 - Large **Florida Retirement System liability** noted:
 - Clarified as **accounting-based**, not immediate cash obligation.
- Highlight:
 - County finances are stable and strong overall.

2. Receive a presentation from Clemons Rutherford Associates (CRA) on the proposed new Levy County Emergency Operations Center and the renovation of the existing Emergency Operations Center for a 911 Center. (Audio 21:06)

- **Presenter:** LEVY COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – Leatha Keene, Director
 - **Discussion:** Legislature and the Governor appropriated \$10,972,471 of Fixed Capital Outlay funds for the design and construction of “Levy County EOC/911 Center Remodel. Projected start date for construction of EOC new facility is December 2026. 911 operations center projected for February 2027. Construction manager bids request will be going out this week.
 - Plans for:
 - **New Emergency Operations Center (EOC)**
 - Renovation of current facility into **911 dispatch center**
 - Project timeline: **~16–18 months total**
 - Built to withstand:
 - **150 mph winds**
 - High emergency standards
 - Includes:
 - Training areas
 - Logistics storage
 - Secure design zones
 - Flexible capacity for major events
- 911 Center:**
- Designed for long-term capacity (20+ years).
 - Cannot be shut down during transition → phased approach required.

3. Approve RESOLUTION 2026-14: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (BOCC) OF LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AND RECORD RELEASE OF LIEN OR PARTIAL RELEASE OF CODE COMPLIANCE LIENS UPON FULL PAYMENT OF THE LIEN, FULL PAYMENT OF AMOUNT REDUCED BY THE BOCC, OR OTHERWISE REQUIRED BY LAW; AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MANAGER TO CONSIDER ANY APPLICATIONS FOR REDUCTION OF CODE COMPLIANCE LIENS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BOCC; PROVIDING CRITERIA TO BE FOLLOWED WHEN CONSIDERING APPLICATIONS FOR REDUCTION OF LIENS; AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MANAGER TO APPROVE CODE COMPLIANCE LIEN REDUCTIONS, OF UP TO \$50,000; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (Audio 43:03)

- **Presenter:** LEVY COUNTY CODE ENFORCEMENT – Dave Banton, Manager
- **Discussion:** Currently seven properties with liens over \$50,000. Board members are in agreement of resolution with the exception that the final decision stays with the BoCC, not the county manager.
- **Public Commentss:**
 - Mike Hanley (Chiefland)** - Agreement to reduce fines should be made up front before someone purchases property.
 - Veronica Harmon-Gunn- (Williston)** - Property owners may be more willing to make necessary improvements if they knew fees could be potentially waived.

Linda Cooper (Williston) - Resolution should not be passed with changes until public can see these changes. No employee should have the authority to waive any fees.

- **Action:** Board agrees to approve resolution with a modification that control still rest in the hands of the BoCC not county manager.
 - o Motion Commissioner Mills motion to approve
 - o Second Commissioner Meeks
 - o Vote Outcome 5-0 motion passes

4. Approval of Resolution 2026-15: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS AND ASSURANCES TO THE FLORIDA COMMISSION FOR THE TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED; DESIGNATING AUTHORIZED SIGNATORIES AND A COUNTY PROJECT MANAGER; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (Audio 1:04)

- **Presenter:** LEVY COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES - Connie Conley, Director
- **Discussion:** Replace bus that has met the five-year and 200,000 mile life expectancy. Older vehicle that is being replaced will be used as backup if needed. Security system needs to be replaced and updated with new system. Total is \$180,187 and 100% grant funded.
- **Action:**
 - o Motion Commissioner Meeks motion to approve
 - o Second Commissioner Mills
 - o Vote Outcome 5-0 motion passes

5. Requesting Board approval and Chair signature for the updates to the Title VI policy for Levy County Transit, which was adopted on December 02, 2014. (Audio 1:06)

- **Presenter:** LEVY COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES - Connie Conley, Director
- **Discussion:**
- **Action:**
 - o Motion Commissioner Meeks motion to approve
 - o Second Commissioner Mills
 - o Vote Outcome 5-0 motion passes

6. Ratify the FIFTH EXTENSION OF EMERGENCY DECLARATION AS DECLARED BY RESOLUTION NUMBER 2026 – 10: DROUGHT AND WILDFIRE CONDITIONS (2026). (Audio 1:06)

- **Presenter:** LEVY COUNTY MANAGER – Mary-Ellen Harper, County Manager
- **Discussion:** Commissioner Mills made motion to combine items #6-9, Extensions 5-8 into 1 item.
- **Action:**
 - o Motion Commissioner Mills motion to approve
 - o Second Commissioner Kennedy
 - o Vote Outcome 5-0 motion passes

7. Ratify the SIXTH EXTENSION OF EMERGENCY DECLARATION AS DECLARED BY RESOLUTION NUMBER 2026 – 10: DROUGHT AND WILDFIRE CONDITIONS (2026). (Audio 1:06)

- **Presenter:** LEVY COUNTY MANAGER – Mary-Ellen Harper, County Manager
- **Discussion:**
- **Action:**

- o Motion Commissioner Mills motion to approve
- o Second Commissioner Kennedy
- o Vote Outcome 5-0 motion passes

8. Ratify the SEVENTH EXTENSION OF EMERGENCY DECLARATION AS DECLARED BY RESOLUTION NUMBER 2026 – 10: DROUGHT AND WILDFIRE CONDITIONS (2026). (Audio 1:06)

- **Presenter:** LEVY COUNTY MANAGER – Mary-Ellen Harper, County Manager
- **Discussion:**
- **Action:**
 - o Motion Commissioner Mills motion to approve
 - o Second Commissioner Kennedy
 - o Vote Outcome 5-0 motion passes

9. Ratify the EIGHTH EXTENSION OF EMERGENCY DECLARATION AS DECLARED BY RESOLUTION NUMBER 2026 – 10: DROUGHT AND WILDFIRE CONDITIONS (2026). (Audio 1:06)

- **Presenter:** LEVY COUNTY MANAGER – Mary-Ellen Harper, County Manager
- **Discussion:**
- **Action:**
 - o Motion Commissioner Mills motion to approve
 - o Second Commissioner Kennedy
 - o Vote Outcome 5-0 motion passes

10. Approve RESOLUTION NO. 2026 – 16: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING DISPOSITION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY; AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE TRANSACTION. (Audio 1:07)

- **Presenter:** LEVY COUNTY MANAGER – Mary-Ellen Harper, County Manager
- **Discussion:** Ronald Kirk Griffin Sr. and Bronwyn Shirley Griffin agreed to a Purchase and Sale Agreement with a purchase price of nine hundred sixty dollars and zero cents (\$960.00 for purchase of the “Surplus Property.”
- **Action:**
 - o Motion Commissioner Hiers motion to approve
 - o Second Commissioner Mills
 - o Vote Outcome 5-0 motion passes

11. Authorize the Chair to sign an Engagement Letter with KutakRock to provide Levy County with legal services in support of the Development Department, including planning and zoning, code enforcement, and the building official. *This item was removed from the agenda during approval of the agenda.*

12. Quasi-Judicial PETITION NO. CZ 26-01: Laura Jones, agent, on behalf of the property owner, City of Williston, for an Amendment to the Zoning Map Atlas (Rezoning), petitioning the Levy County Board of County Commissioners to amend the zoning map atlas for an approximate 24.53-acre parcel, from Industrial to Public Facilities, according to Levy County Land Development Code. Parcel Number(s) 0503700000. (Audio 1:08)

- **Presenter:** LEVY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTOR – Bernard Cox
- **Discussion:** All parties sworn in by county attorney.

The purpose of this rezoning request from Industrial to Public facilities is that subject parcel's current and proposed use is a sports complex. Current zoning (Industrial zoning) does not allow for the proposed use. Industrial zoning is intended for manufacturing, assembly, processing, package, storage and distribution of products, warehouses, etc. Reclassifying the property removes the limitations and accommodates park and recreational uses. City of Williston will supply park with water and sewer services as well as maintenance. Property currently utilizes one entrance to the property off US HWY 27. Northeast 40th street is a paved, 2 lane local road, and the property owner has indicated that the access off of this road will instead be the main entrance.

- **Eryn Mertens-** Planner with North Florida Professional Services
- **Laura Jones-** Agent on behalf of City of Williston
- **Veronica Harmon-Gunn-**(Adverse property owner) Ok with rezoning as long as the project is going to be completed and will be what is proposed. Past businesses have come in and started projects in the area and never followed through. She would rather see this property a park for the youth than a junk yard try to move in.
- **Commissioners Discussion:** Commissioners want the entrance off US Hwy 27 available for emergency access. Entrance off 40th street will need to be upgraded to be accessible for public use.
- **Public Comments:**
Stacy Peters (Williston)-Entrance off 40th Street needs to be upgraded and more accessible, high traffic should use entrance off US Hwy 27. Thinks this park will be good for the community and youth.
Joyce Atkins (Williston) - Current entrance off 40th Street is not accessible or safe for kids to be traveling. She wants road to be upgraded for safety concerns.
- **Action:**
 - o Motion: Commissioner Mills motioned to approve.
 - o Second: Commissioner Hiers
 - o Vote Outcome 5-0 motion passes

***A second hearing is required for this item. Second vote is needed to schedule the next hearing for after 5:00 pm on a weekday, or by an affirmative vote of 4 commissioners, elect to conduct the hearing at another time of day.**

- **Action: Commissioners agree to 9am meeting, on a regular scheduled meeting.**
 - o Motion: Commissioner Meeks motioned to approve.
 - o Second: Commissioner Hiers
 - o Vote Outcome 5-0 motion passes

13. A request by Levy County, for a Text Amendment to Section 50-700 General Use Table, of the Land Development Code of Levy County for a chart amendment to add Retail Store more than 15,000 sqft and make corrections for Solar facilities use according to Florida Statute 163.3205. *(Audio 2:04)*

- **Presenter:** LEVY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT – Bernard “Bo” Cox, Provisional Building Official
- **Discussion:** Proposal seeks to permit larger retail stores within industrial zoning and higher-intensity commercial zoning districts, while EXCLUDING the C-2 and RMU zoning districts. Florida Statute 163.3205 states a solar facility shall be permitted use in all Agriculture land use categories, but must comply with the setbacks and buffer area criteria. Correction of this amendment will comply with the Florida Statute 163.3205 allowing the same use to all agriculture land.
- **Action:**
 - o Motion: Commissioner Meeks motioned to approve.
 - o Second: Commissioner Mills
 - o Vote Outcome 5-0 motion passes

***A second hearing is required for this item. Second vote is needed to schedule the next hearing for after 5:00 pm on a weekday, or by an affirmative vote of 4 commissioners, elect to conduct the hearing at another time of day.**

- **Action: Commissioners agree to 9am meeting, on a regular scheduled meeting.**
 - o Motion: Commissioner Meeks motioned to approve.
 - o Second: Commissioner Kennedy

- o Vote Outcome 5-0 motion passes

14. Approve a Memorandum of Understanding between the Citrus Levy Marion Regional Workforce Development Board, Inc., d/b/a CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion and the Levy County Board of County Commissioners. (Audio 2:12)

- **Presenter:** LEVY COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Landon Harrar, Manager
- **Discussion:** Update performance objectives and renew contract. CareerSource CLM agrees to pay Levy BoCC \$30,000.
- **Action:**
 - o Motion: Commissioner Mills motioned to approve.
 - o Second: Commissioner Meeks
 - o Vote Outcome 5-0 motion passes

15. To declare 13 items of tangible property on “Surplus List – June 2, 2026” as surplus and to direct staff to dispose of this equipment at public auction. (Audio 2:14)

- **Presenter:** LEVY COUNTY FLEET – Jessie Robinson, Director
- **Discussion:** Most equipment will cost the county more to repair than it is worth. No minimum bids are established unless necessary, depending on the equipment.
- **Action:**
 - o Motion: Commissioner Hiers motioned to approve.
 - o Second: Commissioner Kennedy
 - o Vote Outcome 5-0 motion passes

16. Approve and authorize the Chair to execute the State of Florida Department of Commerce Federally Funded Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Rebuild Florida Infrastructure Repair Program, Subrecipient Commerce Agreement No.: MS031, between the Florida Department of Commerce and the Levy County Board of County Commissioners for the Fire Emergency Response and Control Project in the amount of \$358,000.00. (Audio 2:17)

- **Presenter:** Kari Bastow, Grants & Finance Manager
- **Discussion:** The project will fund the purchase and installation of a permanent standby generator at Fire Station No. 7. Rehabilitation of the 2,500-square-foot facility located at 310 School Street, Bronson, Florida, which will house County Fire Rescue Administrative Services and Equipment and serve as the County’s Emergency Response and Services Staging Area.
- **Action:**
 - o Motion: Commissioner Mills motioned to approve.
 - o Second: Commissioner Hiers
 - o Vote Outcome 5-0 motion passes

17. Approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Levy County Board of County Commissioners ("Levy BOCC") and International Association of Fire Fighters ("IAFF") to clarify the language contained in Article 26 section (1) of the Collective Bargaining Agreement. (Audio 2:19)

- **Presenter:** LEVY COUNTY HUMAN RESOURCES- Elizabeth Vigorito
- **Discussion:** MOU clarifies that while union members are using union pool time, they shall continue to accrue personal vacation and sick leave at the same rate they accrue such leave while not using union pool time.
- **Action:**
 - o Motion: Commissioner Mills motioned to approve.
 - o Second: Commissioner Meeks
 - o Vote Outcome 5-0 motion passes

18. Approve Change Order for the CR 330 Widening and Resurfacing Project, FDOT Project No. 438170-1-54-01, Contract No. G1703, in the amount of \$200,000.00 for additional borrow excavation

and embankment material necessary to complete the project per the Engineer of Record’s recommendation and applicable FDOT criteria. (Audio 2:22)

- **Presenter:** LEVY COUNTY ROAD DEPARTMENT – Don Clifton, Director
- **Discussion:** The total cost of the Change Order is \$200,000.00. Funding will be provided through the CR 330 FDOT Grant Project budget and associated project funds. Change Order is necessary due to insufficient earthwork quantities identified during construction. Revised field calculations determined that additional embankment material must be imported to achieve the required roadway grades.
- **Action:**
 - o Motion: Commissioner Mills motioned to approve.
 - o Second: Commissioner Kennedy
 - o Vote Outcome 5-0 motion passes

PUBLIC COMMENTSS: NONE

19. Request for Approval of Expenditures (Audio 2:24)

- Chairman Hodge requested approval of expenditures in the amount of **\$2,820,387.97**
- **Action:**
 - o Motion: Commissioner Mills motioned to approve.
 - o Second: Commissioner Meeks
 - o Vote Outcome 5-0 motion passes

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS: (Audio 2:25)

Commissioner Kennedy: Court house construction update, Chiefland Watermelon Festival

Commissioner Meeks: Chiefland Watermelon Festival, Legislative Special Session

Commissioner Mills: Legislative Special Session, Budget Cuts, Thankful for lobbyist working for Levy County

Commissioner Hodge: Chiefland Watermelon Festival & Parade, Oyster Restoration project in Cedar Key, Budget Cuts

Commissioner Hiers: Legislative Special Session, Budget Cuts, Thankful for lobbyist working for Levy County, Looking forward to new park in Williston

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COMMISSION, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 11:48 A.M.

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEVY COUNTY, FL

Clerk of Court, Matt Brooks

Chairman, Tim Hodge

Minutes Submitted by: Matt Brooks, Clerk of Court & Comptroller
Date Submitted: 06/2/2026