

**REGULAR MEETING
LEVY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
APRIL 11, 2023**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Levy County Commissioners was held on April 11, 2023 at 9:00 A.M. in the Meeting Room of the Levy County Annex Building with the following Commissioners present:

Chairman, Matt Brooks
Vice-Chair, Comm. Desiree Mills
Comm. Tim Hodge
Comm. John Meeks
Comm. Rock Meeks

Also present were: County Attorney – Nicolle Shalley
County Coordinator – Wilbur Dean

Chairman Brooks called the Meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. Comm. Rock Meeks gave the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Comm. John Meeks.

EXPENDITURES

Comm. Rock Meeks made a motion to approve the following expenditures presented for payment. Second was made by Comm. Hodge and the MOTION CARRIES.

CHECK NUMBER	148289-148302, 148305-148450
FUND	AMOUNT
GENERAL REVENUE	2,113,302.94
ROAD	93,254.52
SHIP	24,478.00
MOSQUITO CONTROL	180.35
TRANSPORTATION	2,826.03
911	17,396.00
COURT FACILITIES	36,160.85
MISC GRANTS	35,248.77
EMS	146,578.60
FIRE	54,863.02
TOURIST DEVELOPMENT	5,172.80
UTILITIES	4,399.89
BLDG INSPECT & SAFETY	19,620.40
CAPITAL PROJECTS	842,446.45
ROAD IMPRV & RESTORE	17,192.50
LANDFILL	32,371.16
TOTAL	\$ 3,445,492.28
EFT/ACH PAYMENT	\$ 651,988.80

LCNR EXPENDITURES

Comm. Rock Meeks made a motion to approve the following LCNR expenditures presented for payment. Second was made by Comm. Hodge and the MOTION CARRIES. Comm. John Meeks abstained from voting due to perceived conflict.

CHECK NUMBER	148303
FUND	AMOUNT
GENERAL REVENUE	1,141.15
ROAD	382.38
TRANSPORTATION	32.98
EMS	12.99
FIRE	54.99
CAPITAL PROJECTS	32.18
LANDFILL	638.85
TOTAL	\$ 2,295.52

AMB SUPPLY, INC. (DBA LEVY JONES) EXPENDITURES

Comm. Rock Meeks made a motion to approve the following AMB Supply, Inc. (DBA Levy Jones) expenditures presented for payment. Second was made by Comm. Hodge and the MOTION CARRIES. Comm. Brooks abstained from voting due to perceived conflict.

FUND	AMOUNT
GENERAL REVENUE	2,337.85
ROAD	678.05
LANDFILL	763.10
TOTAL	\$ 3,779.00

MINUTES

The minutes for the Regular Meetings held March 7, 2023 and March 21, 2023 were presented for Board approval.

Comm. John Meeks made a motion to approve the minutes for the Regular Meetings held on March 7, 2023 and March 21, 2023 as presented. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

AGENDA ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, MODIFICATIONS

Comm. Mills made a motion to set the agenda with no changes. Second was made by Comm. John Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

- A. Wilbur Dean requested Board approval of a Proclamation proclaiming April 16, 2023 as National Healthcare Decisions Day and read the Proclamation into public record.

Comm. John Meeks made a motion to approve the Proclamation for April 16, 2023 for National Healthcare Decisions Day as presented. Second was made by Comm. Mills and the MOTION CARRIES.

Charlene Stefanelli, spoke on behalf of Haven Hospice.

- B. Comm. Brooks presented a Milestone Service Award to Tisha Whitehurst for 10 years of employment.

- C. Comm. Brooks presented and read into public record a Proclamation recognizing the Williston Red Devils Boys Basketball Team recognizing them for winning their first State Title.

Comm. John Meeks made a motion to approve the Proclamation recognizing the Williston Red Devils Boys Basketball Team as presented. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Andrew Ritz, owner of Central Florida Broadband, spoke to the Board of broadband expansion to the Levy County area stating he is looking for the Board's support in his endeavor to provide fiber optic internet to its residents. Mr. Ritz requested a letter of support from the Board stating their support of broadband expansion in Levy County as he is seeking funding from the State of Florida for a Capital Infrastructure Grant.

Jody Duggan-Lay requested the Board consider a change in zoning regulations to allow property owners to have temporary, seasonal occupancy of guests with RV's and horses, so long as other zoning requirements are met. Other audience members who spoke in favor of a zoning change were: Diane Rowley, Karen Giroux, Nancy Findquist, Judy Fuller-Brown and Patty Healy.

Sandy Terp spoke to the Board, encouraging them to consult with the FDOT about building a land bridge over SR121 in order for animals, hunters and equestrian riders to cross safely in the area where Goethe Forest is located on both sides.

Jeff Hardison cautioned the Board about changing the zoning regulations for RV's as this could encourage more unregulated squatters in the county.

CLERK OF COURT & COMPTROLLER

Jared Blanton, Finance Officer introduced Zack Chalifour from James Moore CPA who presented the Levy County – BOCC Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2022 Audited Financial Statements.

PLANNING & ZONING

Stacey Hectus, Director

Public Hearing – Requesting Board approval of Ordinance 2023-06, an Ordinance of Levy County, Florida, amending Chapter 50 (The Land Development Code) and Appendix B (Schedule of Fees, Rates and Charges) of the County Code of Ordinances; by creating a process, requirements and fees for Unity of Title and Release of Unity of Title; providing for inclusion in the Code; providing for a Severability Clause; providing a Repealing Clause; providing directions to the Clerk and an effective date. Ms. Hectus then read the title of the Ordinance into public record.

Comm. Brooks asked if anyone in the audience wished to speak regarding the item presented. There was none.

Comm. John Meeks made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-06 as requested. Second was made by Comm. Mills and the MOTION CARRIES.

COUNTY COORDINATOR

Wilbur Dean

- A. Requesting Board approval of Resolution 2023-13 declaring certain real property as surplus; ratifying the terms of the exchange of the surplus real property for other necessary real property and ratifying the closing on the exchange; providing directions to the Clerk and Finance Officer; and providing an effective date.

Comm. John Meeks made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-13 as presented. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

- B. Requesting Board approval of the Engagement Letter from Nabors, Giblin & Nickerson, P.A. for the Annual Assessment Programs for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. The fees for these services increase by \$175 and the total cost is \$35,675.

Comm. Rock Meeks made a motion to approve the Engagement Letter from Nabors, Giblin & Nickerson, P.A. for the FY 2023-2024 Annual Assessment Programs as presented. Second was made by Comm. Mills and the MOTION CARRIES.

- C. Requesting Board approval to re-appoint James “JD” Holmes to the Planning Commission. The next term will expire in 2027.

Comm. Mills made a motion to re-appoint James “JD” Holmes to the Planning Commission as requested. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

- D. Requesting Board approval to send Notices of Termination between Levy County and the Town of Otter Creek and the Town of Inglis terminating the Interlocal Agreements and Building Code Enforcement District and authorize the County Coordinator to sign.

Comm. Mills introduced the newly elected Mayor, Steve Schwing to the Board and he requested the Town of Inglis Interlocal Agreement and Building Code Enforcement Termination be postponed until September 30, 2023.

Comm. John Meeks made a motion to approve the Notices of Termination as presented, extending the deadline until September 30, 2023 for the Town of Inglis as requested. Second was made by Comm. Mills and the MOTION CARRIES.

- E. Wilbur Dean spoke regarding a potential location for the LARC. He spoke of a 1.56 acre lot located on CR32B, next to Weeks Bail Bonds.

Comm. John Meeks spoke of the need for a new location for LARC, stating they are currently renting a space until a permanent location can be found and stated he would like to donate this county owned property in the form of a 99-year lease. He also stated he would like to maintain a 60 ft. easement on the outside of the property in the event the remainder of the county owned property is ever developed.

Lisa Daniels and Sharon Wolfe spoke to the Board expressing an interest in planning for the future and the needs for space for the clients coming to the LARC facility.

Mrs. Wolfe also reminded everyone of the Wild Hog Canoe/Kayak race, which will take place this Saturday. She stated this is the largest fundraiser of the year for LARC.

The Board agreed by consensus to direct staff to move forward with the process of transferring the property spoken of to the LARC. A Resolution can be presented to the Board for approval.

TOURIST DEVELOPMENT

Tisha Whitehurst

- A. Requesting Board appointment of Melinda “Mendy” Allen to the Original Florida Tourism Task Force, which is also known as Visit Natural North Florida.

Comm. John Meeks made a motion to appoint Melinda “Mendy” Allen to the Original Florida Tourism Task Force a/k/a Visit Natural North Florida as requested. Second was made by Comm. Mills and the MOTION CARRIES.

- B. Requesting Board approval of funding for a Clam Trail through Levy County. The estimated cost for signs to be placed along the Clam Trail is \$14,479. This project began several years ago by Cedar Key Aquaculture Director, Leslie Sturmer, and will be supported through funding of the Tourist Development Tax.

Comm. John Meeks made a motion to approve funding for the Clam Trail through Levy County as requested. Second was made by Comm. Mills and the MOTION CARRIES.

- C. Mrs. Whitehurst spoke of Rural Counties Day, which will take place in Tallahassee April 25-26, 2023. She inquired if there was anything the Commissioners wished to give out to encourage visitors to the Levy County booth.

Comm. John Meeks stated he would be in favor of passing out boiled peanuts. Comm. Mills volunteered to work with Mrs. Whitehurst to further plan for the event. Further plans were made for transportation of a tent and table.

PROCUREMENT

Alicia Tretheway, Coordinator

- A. Requesting Board approval of Resolution 2023-17 amending the final budget for fiscal year 2023 in the amount of \$75,771.25. The first distribution of LATCF Funds from November 4, 2022 have been received and this budget amendment appropriates the funds.

Comm. Rock Meeks made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-17 as requested. Second was made by Comm. Hodge and the MOTION CARRIES.

- B. Requesting Board approval of Amendment No. 1 to Task Assignment 2022-04 between Levy County and Barnett, Fronczak, Barlowe & Shuler. This amendment is necessary to remove Baytowne Group, Inc. and substitute Gmuer Engineering, LLC due to the unforeseen passing of the Engineer and the firm is unable to provide the project services. The fees for these services will increase from \$11,500 to \$15,000, a difference of \$3,500.

Comm. Mills made a motion to approve Amendment No. 1 to Task Assignment 2022-04 as requested. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

- C. Requesting Board approval of Task Assignment 2023-3 between Levy County and Barnett, Fronczak, Barlowe & Shuler Architects for the professional architectural services for Pre-Design, Contract Document, Bidding and Contract Administration for the renovation of the existing building at the Levy County Government Center in the amount of \$79,945.

Comm. Rock Meeks made a motion to approve Task Assignment 2023-3 as presented. Second was made by Comm. Mills and the MOTION CARRIES.

- D. Requesting Board approval of the Second Amendment to the Agreement between Levy County and Federal Engineering, Inc. This Amendment is necessary to continue to assist the County with the implementation project management support of the P25 Radio System. The maximum cost for services, which includes projected labor, travel and other direct costs is \$228,000. GSA (General Services Administration) Rates are being used.

Comm. Rock Meeks made a motion to approve the Second Amendment to the Agreement with Federal Engineering, Inc. as presented. Second was made by Comm. Mills and the MOTION CARRIES.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

Nicolle M. Shalley

Requesting discussion by the Board on the draft revised Board Rules and discuss interest in adopting a letterhead policy and an ordinance designating an official County Seal and/or County Logo(s).

Following discussion by the Commissioners, it was agreed by consensus to direct Atty. Shalley to bring back procedural rules for Board approval with changes as stated.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dana Sheffield reminded everyone of the event taking place this Saturday at the Cross City Airport.

Sue Beaudette, from the Town of Bronson, reminded everyone the scholarship applications are due by April 21st. The date for the next “Beautify Bronson Day” has been scheduled for Saturday, May 20th.

COMMISSIONERS’ REPORTS

Comm. Mills reported of meetings she had attended and mentioned upcoming meetings: Wednesday, April 12th from 10:00 A.M. – 11:15 A.M., Affordable Housing meeting in Cedar Key at the UF Nature Coast Biological Station.

Comm. John Meeks reported of items/bills which will be voted on in Tallahassee.

Comm. Matt Brooks stated he and the other Commissioners should have received an invitation to Law Day on the Suwannee River, which will take place on May 5th. Honorable Judge Browning will be honored, as he is retiring.

Comm. Brooks asked Mr. Dean to give an update regarding Sovereign Immunity and Mr. Dean stated current legislative standings on this topic as well as others which could affect Levy County.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COMMISSION, THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:29 A.M.

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEVY COUNTY, FL

Clerk of Court, Danny J. Shipp

Chairman, Matt Brooks