

REGULAR MEETING
LEVY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
October 7, 2025

The Regular Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners was held on October 7, 2025 at 9:00 A.M. in the BoCC Meeting Room at the Levy County Government Center.

CALL TO ORDER: Madam Chair Mills called the Meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

INVOCATION: Given by Comm. Hiers

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Comm. Hodge

ROLL CALL:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Madam Chair, Comm. Desiree Mills
Vice Chair, Comm. Tim Hodge
Comm. Charlie Kennedy
Comm. Johnny Hiers
(Absent) Comm. Rock Meeks

ALSO PRESENT:

County Attorney – Nicolle Shalley
County Manager – Mary-Ellen Harper

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

- **Action Taken:**
 - Amendments: No changes
 - Motion Comm. Kennedy
 - Second Comm. Hodge
 - Vote Outcome 4-0

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1. **RECOGNITION:** (Audio 2:00) Elizabeth Vigorito, Human Resources presented a retirement plaque to David Cannon for over 30 years of dedicated service to Levy County.
 - a. Madam Chair Mills gave thanks to Mr Cannon.
 - b. Comm. Hodge acknowledges Mr Cannon's service and leadership. As evidenced by the many compliments given by the public to Comm. Hodge about the great work the county tree trimming crews perform, Mr Cannon has done a great job.

- c. Asst Superintendent Lincoln Cannon Provides Words of Appreciation
 - d. Photo opportunity with Mr. Cannon.
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PUBLIC COMMENT: *(Audio 7:35)*

- **Debbie Claridge and Suzander Burton (Yankeetown)**
 - Raised concerns about lack of animal control services in Yankeetown, including no local shelter and issues with stray animals.
 - Inquired about potential grants to address animal control issues.
 - Madam Chair Mills requested contact information be left with Mary Ellen for follow-up.
 - **Dale McClellan (Gulf Hammock Fishing Club)**
 - Announced an open house for a rebuilt lodge, replacing one lost in a 2023 fire.
 - Event details: Saturday, noon start, fish tournament, barbecue (RSVP requested), entertainment by Mark Johnson.
 - Flyers distributed, public invited.
 - **Diane Marchand (Williston)**
 - Addressed a letter received regarding alleged harassment of county employees.
 - Requested clarification and evidence of accusations, denied claims of inappropriate actions.
 - Expressed support for animal shelter improvements but raised concerns about unmet workshop goals from November 2024, including ordinance updates and facility renovations.
 - Highlighted issues with stray animals and shelter capacity. Concerned that residents are putting their own animals in danger because they are being asked to hold on to the stray animals because the county shelter space is full.
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Business or Informational Items

***County Manager Harper introduced Animal Services Manager, Brandy Cannon. Mrs Cannon provided an introduction of Dr Yacavone, DVM, PhD as the new Veterinarian for Levy County Animal Services (Audio 18:45)*

2. To receive a presentation on the Third Quarter Fiscal Year Quarterly Report for April 1 – June 30, 2025 from the Development Services Division. (Audio 19:10)

- **Presenter:** Bo Cox, Director
- **Discussion:**
 - Dave Banton, Code Enforcement: Provided update of what has occurred in the previous quarter.
 - Planning department update will be provided next quarter due to vacancy and outsourcing of this county function.

5. To receive consensus on the rates and fees for both the Manatee Water System and the University Oaks Water System and to direct staff to prepare an ordinance modifying the rates and fees accordingly. (Audio 36:00)

- **Presenters:** Mary-Ellen Harper, County Manager
 - **Discussion:** Rates based on Florida Rural Water Association recommendations (last updated 2019). Fees adjusted to cover staff costs for turn-on/turn-off services. The process requires public hearing and notification in water bills.
 - **Action Taken:**
 - Motion Comm. Kennedy
 - Second Comm. Hodge
 - Vote Outcome 4-0
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6. To approve priorities for the January 2026 Legislative Session. (Audio 38:00)

- **Presenters:** Mary-Ellen Harper, County Manager
 - **Discussion:**
 - Replacement of University Oaks Water System Mains
 - Open an additional landfill cell.
 - Installation of a Generator for the Levy Country Government Center.
 - Request State of Florida to expand the allowable uses for SHIP Funding
 - Funding of a fully staffed ambulance to include salaries, benefits, operating costs and replacement of that unit.
 - Tim Parsons, Liberty Partners: supported the list and made note of budget constraints and project readiness stating the more attractive projects are the ones that will be completed and not just started.
 - Consensus was given to finalize the plan at the next meeting.
 - Comm. Hiers confirmed with Madam Chair Mills that general consensus was received by the board.
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7. To approve the transfer of \$22,000 from reserves from contingencies to professional services fees to cover fiscal year 2025 expenses. (Audio 45:00)

- **Presenters:** Bo Cox, Division Director
 - **Discussion:** Funds to cover shortfall from services provided by JB Pro for FY 2025.
 - **Action Taken:**
 - Motion Comm. Hiers
 - Second Comm. Kennedy
 - Vote Outcome 4-0
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8. To approve the Fourth Amendment to License Agreement between American Towers LLC and Board of County Commissioners of Levy County, Florida. (Audio 46:20)

- **Presenters:** Mitch Harrell, Director
 - **Discussion:** Agreement clarifies \$375/month fee for tower maintenance, avoiding unpredictable charges (e.g., \$20,000 annual bill).
 - **Action Taken:**
 - Motion Comm. Hodge
 - Second Comm. Kennedy
 - Vote Outcome 4-0
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9. To declare a 2013 Batwing Mower as surplus property and donate it to the Lancaster Correctional Institution. (Audio 50:25)

- **Presenters:** Jessie Robinson, Director
 - **Discussion:** The Lancaster Correctional Institution provides prisoners to perform work for the county. This falls under F.S. 274.05 surplus property. This equipment is past its useful life for Levy County, but Lancaster said they can certainly utilize it.
 - **Action Taken:**
 - Motion Comm. Hodge
 - Second Comm. Hiers
 - Vote Outcome 4-0
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10. To declare all 80 items of tangible property on “Surplus Property List - October 7, 2025” as surplus and to direct staff to dispose of this equipment at public auction. (Audio 52:14)

- **Presenters:** Jessie Robinson, Director
 - **Discussion:** Staff will dispose of all surplus equipment on this list at public auction. Florida Statute 274.06 Alternative procedure.
 - [Copy of Auction List 2025.pdf](#) (0.02 MB)
 - **Action Taken:**
 - Motion Comm. Kennedy
 - Second Comm. Hodge
 - Vote Outcome 4-0
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11. Approve the Mosquito Control State Financial Assistance Agreement between Levy County and the State of Florida for the County to receive \$69,587.50 to provide Arthropod/Mosquito Control.

(Audio 53:20)

- **Presenters:** Matt Weldon, Director
- **Discussion:** Same annual contract as previous years with no changes or increases.

- **Action Taken:**

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| ○ Motion | Comm. Hiers |
| ○ Second | Comm. Hodge |
| ○ Vote Outcome | 4-0 |

12. To approve the agreement between the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Levy County Board of County Commissioners for the Levy County Small County Consolidated Solid Waste Management Grant, Agreement # CW020 for \$93,750.00

(Audio 54:25)

- **Presenters:** Travis Newsom, Assistant Director
- **Discussion:** The grant will provide funds to purchase a new 12-passenger transit van for the transportation of inmates to assist with the recycling program separating recycling materials and cleaning up debris around the Landfill.
- **Action Taken:**

○ Motion	Comm. Hodge
○ Second	Comm. Hiers
○ Vote Outcome	4-0

13. To direct staff to prepare a resolution to amend the rates for garbage generated from a dwelling unit to one trailer load up to a 5' x 10' per household per day to be accepted at no charge, and for any additional trailer loads or larger trailers to be charged at an additional rate of \$70 per ton.

(Audio 55:25)

- **Presenters:** Travis Newsom, Assistant Director
- **Discussion:** In the two months since implementation of Resolution 2025-38, Landfill Staff have received considerable feedback from residents that the daily limit is too restrictive. Many households dispose of their solid waste only once or twice per month, which makes compliance with the daily bag/container limit challenging. Residents have expressed concern that the existing limits do not account for reasonable variations in household waste disposal practices. Discussion on enforcement challenges, ID checks, and trailer size definitions. Concerns raised about potential

abuse and need for specific language. Comm. Kennedy motioned to remove the trailer size for simplicity and to keep the line moving at the scale house.

- **Action Taken:**

- Motion Comm. Kennedy
- Second Comm. Hiers
- Vote Outcome 4-0

14. ADOPT RESOLUTION NUMBER 2025-64 A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA, DECLARING CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY IDENTIFIED AS PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER 0109756500 AS SURPLUS AND DIRECTING COMPETITIVE DISPOSITION OF THAT SURPLUS PROPERTY IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNTY CODE; PROVIDING DIRECTIONS TO COUNTY STAFF; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (Audio 1:09)

- **Presenters:** Nicolle M. Shalley, County Attorney
- **Discussion:** At its meeting on September 16, 2025, the Board directed the preparation of this Resolution to surplus real property. If the Board approves this Resolution, County staff will conduct the disposition in accordance with Sec. 2-305(b) of County Code, which states: “the administrator shall send written notice of the available surplus property to all adjacent property owners by certified mail. If, within three weeks after mailing such notice: (1) Only one adjacent property owner responds with interest in purchasing the property, then the county manager or designee may negotiate and is authorized to execute a contract with that property owner; or (2) Two or more adjacent property owners respond with interest in purchasing the property, then the administrator shall request and accept sealed bids for the parcel from those property owners. The county manager is authorized to execute a contract with the highest bidder or may reject all bids; or (3) No response is received from any adjacent property owner, then the county may retain the property or may dispose of it by another method. Any sale of an undevelopable/unusable property to an adjacent property owner must be conditioned upon recording of a declaration of unity of title (as described in section 50-776) at closing to ensure the undevelopable/unusable surplus parcel is eliminated by unification with the adjacent parcel.
- There are two property owners eligible to submit offers on this property.
- **Action Taken:**
 - Motion Comm. Kennedy
 - Second Comm. Hiers
 - Vote Outcome 4-0

PUBLIC COMMENT: (Audio 1:12)

- Linda Cooper (Williston)- Addressed board about the delay in enforcing landfill ID checks, noted there’s been increased costs to public since 2018 and out of county garbage paid for by Levy County citizens.

- Diane Marchand (Williston)- Inquired as to if the new county veterinarian is part-time or full-time and whether spay/neuter services will be provided.
- Jeff Hardison (Chiefland)- Remarked on how past practice by the county was to show your ID at the landfill and he has been checked previously until county staff began to recognize him.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS: *(Audio 1:16)*

- Comm. Johnny Hiers- highlighted success of the Williston Peanut Festival, recognized agricultural contributions to the local community.
- Madam Chair Mills- Announced the joint workshop starting today at 1pm in the county cafeteria to discuss county comprehensive plan updates.

APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES:

Request to approve county expenditures in the amount of \$5,770,261.70.

- **Action Taken:**
 - Motion Comm. Hodge
 - Second Comm. Kennedy
 - Vote Outcome 4-0

MINUTES: This item was skipped and the meeting was adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT: 10:18 am

Minutes Submitted by: Matt Brooks, Clerk of Court & Comptroller

Date Submitted: 10/7/2025