

**REGULAR MEETING  
LEVY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MARCH 21, 2023**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Levy County Commissioners was held on March 21, 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. Mills made a motion to approve the following expenditures presented for payment. Second was made by Comm. Hodge and the MOTION CARRIES.

<b>CHECK NUMBER</b>	<b>148159-148167, 148170-148288</b>	
<b>FUND</b>		<b>AMOUNT</b>
GENERAL REVENUE		42,044.85
ROAD		77,552.32
SHIP		25,400.00
TRANSPORTATION		583.04
COURT FACILITIES		2,288.63
MISC GRANTS		5,066.74
EMS		29,760.12
FIRE		2,108.71
TOURIST DEVELOPMENT		2,393.94
UTILITIES		4,019.77
BLDG INSPECT & SAFETY		2,061.05
IMPACT FEES - EMS		53.08
IMPACT FEES - PARKS		150.21
IMPACT FEES - RD DIST I		1,410.00
CAPITAL PROJECTS		60,792.42
ROAD IMPRV & RESTORE		469.75
LANDFILL		113,118.65
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>369,273.28</b>
<b>EFT/ACH PAYMENT</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>267,071.54</b>

**LCNR EXPENDITURES**

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

<b>CHECK NUMBER</b>		<b>148168</b>
<b>FUND</b>		<b>AMOUNT</b>
GENERAL REVENUE		809.20
ROAD		408.09
EMS		38.65
FIRE		19.38
CAPITAL PROJECTS		77.14
LANDFILL		159.02
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,511.48</b>

**AMB SUPPLY, INC. (DBA LEVY JONES) EXPENDITURES**

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

<b>CHECK NUMBER</b>		<b>148169</b>
<b>FUND</b>		<b>AMOUNT</b>
GENERAL REVENUE		679.00
MISC GRANTS		219.90
EMS		414.22
FIRE		414.23
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,727.35</b>

**MINUTES**

The minutes for the Regular Meeting and Land Uses Workshop held on February 21, 2023 were presented for Board approval.

Comm. John Meeks made a motion to approve the minutes for the Regular Board Meeting and Land Uses Workshop held February 21, 2023 as presented. Second was made by Comm. Mills and the MOTION CARRIES.

**AGENDA ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, MODIFICATIONS**

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

**PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS**

A. Haven Hospice, Professional Liaison, Deanna Sheppard requested Board approval of a Proclamation proclaiming the month of April, 2023 as National Healthcare Decisions Month. Comm. Brooks then read the Proclamation into public record.

Comm. John Meeks made a motion to approve the Proclamation as presented. Second was made by Comm. Mills and the MOTION CARRIES.

B. Milestone Service Awards for completion of five continuous years of service and at the end of every additional five years of service for the quarter ending March 31, 2023 were presented by Jacqueline Martin. Awards were presented to:

EMS                    Shernard Blake, 5 years  
                              Jason Hughes, 5 years  
                              Harry Sparks, 10 years

Construction/Maintenance    Charles Cook, 35 years

Road Department                    Chance Cummings, 5 years  
    Jose Thomas, 25 years  
    Robert Jordan, 25 years

Tourist Development                Catrina Sistrunk, 5 years  
    Tisha Whitehurst, 10 years

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Raemi Eagle-Glenn introduced herself to the Board stating she has filed and is seeking the House District 22 Seat currently held by Chuck Clemons, which will be vacated in 2024 due to term limits.

**LEVY COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE**

Mike West, 911 Coordinator

A. Requesting Board approval and the Chairman’s signature on the E911 Rural County Grant Application to cover the cost of the E911 System Maintenance for 2023-2024 in the amount of \$39,219.33.

B. Requesting Board approval and signature on the E911 State Grant Application for annual GIS Maintenance in the amount of \$127,836.

Comm. John Meeks made a motion to approve items A. and B. as requested. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

## COUNTY COORDINATOR

Wilbur Dean,

- A. **Public Hearing** – Requesting Board approval of Ordinance 2023-5 amending the Code of Ordinances of Levy County, Florida relating to Code Enforcement; by revising general provisions and creating a Code Enforcement Special Magistrate as an alternate Code Enforcement System; providing a severability clause; providing a repealing clause; providing for inclusion in the Code and providing directions to the Clerk and effective date.

Comm. Brooks asked if anyone in the audience wished to speak regarding this item.

Diane Garte expressed frustration in violations she sees in the county which do not get attention unless a citizen reports them. She encouraged the Board to allow Code Enforcement to self-report violations they observe in the course of their day-to-day business.

Comm. John Meeks made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-5 as presented. Second was made by Comm. Mills and the MOTION CARRIES.

- B. Requesting the Board: (1) Consider the issues outlined in the Economic Development Fund Grant Agreement – Notice of Default dated January 23, 2023; (2) Hear from A & M Manufacturing, Inc. (the Grantee); and (3) pursuant to Section 6 of the Grant Agreement and Sec. 86-71 of the County Code, determine whether to terminate the Grant Agreement and require repayment of the Grant Funds previously paid in full to the Grantee in August, 2019 plus interest, or take such other action(s) with respect to the Grant the Board determines appropriate.

John Hemken, Owner, CEO of A & M Manufacturing, Inc. spoke to the Board, addressing the four points mentioned. He stated the required annual reports were not filed to the County due to loss of staff during the pandemic, but stated he is willing to bring into compliance. The Chiefland site is still in business and has not moved, despite the SunBiz principal address being the second business location in Alachua. He stated it is his intent to continue operating the business at the Chiefland location.

Following discussion by the Commissioners and input by Atty. Shalley, Comm. John Meeks made a motion to amend the agreement allowing 120 days for Mr. Hemken to file the required reports for A & M Manufacturing, Inc. The amended agreement allow for this to become a receivable with accrued interest. Second was made by Comm. Mills and the MOTION CARRIES.

Diane Garte spoke spoke regarding the reports, which had not been filed.

- C. Requesting the Board review Sovereign Immunity letters as provided and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Comm. John Meeks made a motion to approve the Sovereign Immunity letters with the Chairman's signature as requested. Second was made by Comm. Mills and the MOTION CARRIES.

## PLANNING & ZONING

Stacey Hectus, Director

**Public Hearing** – Petition No. PP 23-01: Requesting Board approval of a Preliminary Plat. McMillen Surveying, representing Kristine Kelley of Kristine’s Acres is petitioning the Commission for a Preliminary Plat to correct the incorrect division of land, Parcel Number 0446500300 and 0446500500. Said parcels are located in Section 20, Township 13S, Range 18E in Levy County, Florida and have a land use and zoning of ARR/Agricultural Rural Residential (10 ac. minimum). Each parcel contains 5 acres, MOL, once platted it will be a 10-acre parcel, MOL.

Atty. Shalley swore in members of the audience wishing to speak regarding this item. Atty. Shalley asked if any of the Commissioners had ex-parte communication regarding this item. There was none.

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

Comm. Rock Meeks made a motion to approve Petition No. PP 23-01 as presented. Second was made by Comm. Mills and the MOTION CARRIES.

## DEPARTMENT REPORTS

### PUBLIC SAFETY

Mitch Harrell, Director

- A. Requesting Board approval to purchase one (1) T-150 transit van from Duval Ford based on Bradford County Sheriff’s Office (BCSO) Contract Bid Pricing for a total cost of \$44,974.05. This purchase is part of the Capital Improvement Program for the LCDPS fleet. The previous logistics vehicle was a used (donated) SUV with over 350,000 miles on it; currently in need of repair but the cost to repair is not justified based on the value of the vehicle.

Comm. Mills made a motion to approve the purchase of one (1) T-150 transit van from Duval Ford as requested. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

- B. Requesting Board approval to purchase one (1) F-150 truck from Duval Ford based on Bradford County Sheriff’s Office (BCSO) Contract Bid Pricing for a total cost of \$46,551.96. This purchase is necessary for the Communications System Manager to complete regular site visits, especially during the communications update project and conduct County business related to communications.
- C. Requesting Board approval and the Chairman’s signature on Resolution 2023-15 for the Budget Amendment increasing expenditures in the Capital Projects and Replacement Fund for the purchase of a vehicle in the amount of \$46,552.

Comm. Mills made a motion to approve the purchase of (1) F-150 truck from Duval Ford and approval of Resolution 2023-15 for the Budget Amendment to purchase the truck as requested. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

## PARKS AND RECREATION

Matt Weldon, Director

Requesting Board approval of the Shell Mound Public Boat Ramp Phase 2 FBIP Grant Application in the amount of \$765,000 to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Comm. John Meeks made a motion to approve the Shell Mound Public Boat Ramp Phase 2 FBIP Grant Application as requested. Second was made by Comm. Mills and the MOTION CARRIES.

## TRANSIT

Connie Conley, Director

Requesting Board approval of Resolution 2023-14, authorizing the execution and submission of an Off-Cycle Section 5311 Operating Assistance Grant Application. This is a 50% match grant in the amount of \$700,000 which assists with 50% reimbursement of wages, benefits and fuel expenditures.

Comm. Mills made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-14 as requested. Second was made by Comm. John Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

Linda Cooper stated she would like the Board to state the expenditure amounts when they are approved.

Sue Beaudette, Town of Bronson announced there will be a Job Fair taking place this Thursday at the First Baptist Church in Bronson beginning at 10:00 A.M. There will be a candidate forum next Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 P.M. in the Commissioners meeting room. A mobile food drive is scheduled for Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 1:00 P.M. in the park. Municipal elections will be taking place on Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>. The deadline for scholarship applications to be turned in for graduating seniors is Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup>.

## COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

**Comm. Mills** reported of meeting with Legislators last week in Tallahassee and attendance of development meetings for new Commissioners. Comm. Mills stated anyone interested in supporting the area youth at the Suwannee River Fair will have an opportunity to do so at the sale tomorrow.

**Comm. Hodge** reported of the time spent in Tallahassee last week stating it was very informative.

**Comm. John Meeks** also reported of meetings attended in Tallahassee last week. He spoke of attempts being made by larger Cooperatives to take away the ability of local Electric Cooperatives to provide broadband to their customers.

**Comm. Brooks** announced the upcoming free Tire Amnesty Day at the Landfill Transfer Station Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 A.M. until 5:00 P.M. Comm. Brooks asked Stacey Hectus to speak regarding scheduling Workshops.

Following discussion among the Commissioners, the following Uses Workshops were set:

- Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 – 5:30 P.M. - Composting.
- Tuesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> immediately following BOCC meeting - Agritourism, Hunting and Fishing Clubs/Camps and Intensive Commercial Recreation.
- Tuesday, June 20<sup>th</sup> 2:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M. – Kennels/Rescues/Sanctuaries and Farm Worker Housing.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COMMISSION, THE MEETING  
ADJOURNED AT 11:34 A.M.

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
LEVY COUNTY, FL

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Clerk of Court, Danny J. Shipp

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Chairman, Matt Brooks