

**REGULAR MEETING  
LEVY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SEPTEMBER 17, 2024**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Levy County Commissioners was held on September 17, 2024 at 9:00 A.M. in the Meeting Room of the Levy County Annex Building with the following Commissioners present:

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

Also present were: County Attorney – Nicolle Shalley  
County Manager – Mary-Ellen Harper

Chairman Mills 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. Brooks.

**EXPENDITURES**

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

<b>CHECK NUMBER</b>	<b>153169-153180, 153183-153288</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
<b>FUND</b>		
GENERAL REVENUE		164,234.21
ROAD		2,169.88
COURT TECH/CRIM PREV		11,887.54
TRANSPORTATION		11,841.61
COURT FACILITIES		23,962.60
MISC GRANTS		1,360.88
EMS		131,807.87
FIRE		10,039.26
TOURIST DEVELOPMENT		5,429.98
UTILITIES		6,423.21
COMMUNICATION		31,449.76
ADD COURT COSTS		2,570.69
BLDG INSPECT & SAFETY		5,031.54
CAPITAL PROJECTS		8,100.83
ROAD IMPRV & RESTORE		13,516.05
LANDFILL		106,718.46
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>536,544.37</b>
<b>EFT/ACH PAYMENT</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>306,307.77</b>

**LCNR EXPENDITURES**

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

<b>CHECK NUMBER</b>	<b>153181</b>
<b>FUND</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
GENERAL REVENUE	832.97
ROAD	111.53
MISC GRANTS	9.99
EMS	120.48
FIRE	62.73
LANDFILL	39.98
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,177.68</b>

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

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

<b>CHECK NUMBER</b>	<b>153182</b>
<b>FUND</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
GENERAL REVENUE	489.85
EMS	654.73
FIRE	654.72
LANDFILL	343.20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 2,142.50</b>

**MINUTES**

The minutes for the Housing Workshop held July 30, 2024, Special Budget Meeting held August 1, 2024, and the Lot Splits Workshop held August 13, 2024 were presented for Board approval.

Comm. John Meeks pointed out an item in the Special Budget Meeting minutes from August 1, 2024 for correction, then made a motion to approve the remaining minutes as presented. Second was made by Comm. Hodge and the MOTION CARRIES.

**AGENDA ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, MODIFICATIONS**

Comm. Mills stated she had two items to add/change on the agenda: add an item requesting the appointment of Marlon Gayle to the Central Florida Community Action Agency and removal of the item recognizing Stephen Weins on his retirement.

Comm. John Meeks made a motion to approve the agenda with changes as stated. Second was made by Comm. Brooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

**PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS**

- A. Presentation of Certificate of Achievement to Stephen Weins, recognizing him on his retirement with the Construction & Maintenance Department. – **ITEM REMOVED** -
- B. Presentation of Milestone Service Awards for completion of five continuous years of service and at the end of every additional 5 years of service for the quarter ending September 30, 2024 were awarded to:

Nathan Mercer	Animal Services	15 Years
John Townsend	Landfill	5 Years
Quinn Leshar	Public Safety	15 Years
Benny S. Holcomb	Public Safety	20 Years
Leslie David Fisher	Road & Bridge	30 Years
Jessie Durrance	Road & Bridge	40 Years
Nicholas Stoffa	Transit	5 Years

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

LaSharda Leasey, an Inter-Governmental Congressional Specialist from FEMA, spoke of individual FEMA assistance available to Levy County residents.

**BUSINESS OR INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**HUMAN RESOURCES**

Jacqueline Martin, Director introduced John “J.K.” Keller, IV, Allen Norton & Blue, P.A., who then gave a Presentation of the proposed Master Collective Bargaining Agreement between Levy County Professional Paramedic and EMT’s, IAFF, Local #4609 and Levy County Commission, for possible ratification.

Comm. John Meeks made a motion to approve and ratify the Master Collective Bargaining Agreement as presented. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

**SHERIFF’S OFFICE**

Arica Leshar, 911 Coordinator

Requesting Board approval of additional terms and conditions for State Grant S26-24-07-13 and adopt Resolution No. 2024-47; A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE FINAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024, AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. This budget amendment is necessary to allow for funds received from the State E911 Board in the form of State Grant S26-24-07-13 in the amount of \$183,000.01, which is to cover the cost of annual maintenance for the GIS Mapping System. No matching funds are required.

Comm. Rock Meeks made a motion to approve the Chair’s signature on the additional terms and conditions and approval of Resolution 2024-47 for the budget amendment as presented. Second was made by Comm. John Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

## COUNTY MANAGER

Mary-Ellen Harper

Presenting the Board of County Commissioners with the Proposed County Manager Transition Plan for review and discussion.

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Mitch Harrell, Director

- A. Requesting Board approval and the Chairman's signature on the Public Emergency Transportation (PEMT) Letter of Agreement between Levy County and the State of Florida, Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA). As well as requesting the Board's approval to remit Intergovernmental Transfer (IGT) Funds to AHCA not to exceed \$618,413.56 when invoiced by AHCA. This Agreement and IGT is required to participate in the PEMT Managed Care Option (MCO) Program to draw down the State share and recoup lost Medicaid revenue. While the LOA requires the County to pay in and provides nothing in return, Levy County is expected to receive \$1,443,879.44 for participation in the program.

Comm. John Meeks made a motion to approve the Public Emergency Transportation (PEMT) Letter of Agreement with the Chair's signature as requested. Second was made by Comm. Hodge and the MOTION CARRIES.

- B. Requesting Board approval of Resolution No. 2024-61; A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE FINAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$12,609 DUE TO INCREASED REVENUES FROM A FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH GRANT FOR EMS TRAINING; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Comm. Brooks made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-61 as presented. Second was made by Comm. John Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

- C. Requesting Board approval and the Chairman's signature on a letter to Marion County accepting the donation of a Fire Engine. The Marion County BOCC approved the donation of a surplus fire engine to Levy County on September 4, 2024.

Comm. John Meeks made a motion to approve the Chair's signature on a letter to Marion County BOCC accepting the donation of a fire engine as requested. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

- D. Chief Harrell presented the LCDPS FY 2024 Third Quarter Department Review to the Board.

Audience member, Linda Cooper inquired if there was any interest in revitalizing the former Williston Hospital. Comm. Mills responded there has been interest in this and Chief Harrell has ideas he is working on to bring a stand-alone emergency facility to Levy County.

- E. Presenting the FY 2024 Third Quarter write-off's in the amount of \$410,274.99 to the Levy County Board of County Commissioners' for approval.

Comm. John Meeks made a motion to approve the FY 2024 Third Quarter write-off's as presented. Second was made by Comm. Brooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

## **PROCUREMENT**

Alicia Tretheway, Coordinator

Requesting Board approval of the lowest, most responsive, responsible yearly bids for supplies for the Levy County Road Department for FY 2025.

Comm. John Meeks made a motion to approve the FY 2025 yearly bids for supplies for the Road Department as presented. Second was made by Comm. Brooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

## **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

Nicolle M. Shalley

- A. Requesting Board approval of the Severance Agreement and General Release between the County and Wilbur Dean.

Comm. Rock Meeks made a motion to approve the Severance Agreement and General Release between the County and Wilbur Dean as presented. Second was made by Comm. Brooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

Audience member Diane Garter and Linda Cooper inquired of the severance total amount and expressed disappointment with the lack of performance assessments.

- B. Requesting Board approval of RESOLUTION NO. 2024-60, A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA, RATIFYING THE EXTENSIONS OF THE DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY ISSUED BY PROCLAMATION OF THE CHAIR IN RESPONSE TO HURRICANE DEBBY; AUTHORIZING CONTINUED COUNTY RESPONSE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; PROVIDING FOR FILING WITH THE CLERK AND POSTING IN ACCORDANCE WITH FLORIDA STATUTES.

Comm. John Meeks made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-60 as presented. Second was made by Comm. Hodge and the MOTION CARRIES.

- C. Requesting Board approval of the Lease Extension from October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025 for office space located at 102 N. Main Street, Chiefland, Florida, for the Guardian ad Litem Program serving Levy and Gilchrist Counties. The total monthly rent amount is \$2,002.48.

Comm. Brooks made a motion to approve the Guardian ad Litem Lease Extension as presented. Second was made by Comm. Hodge and the MOTION CARRIES.

## **LEVY COUNTY COMMISSIONER**

- A. Desiree Mills spoke the Board expressing an interest of sending a letter to the State of Florida discouraging the use of parks as golf courses.

The Board agreed by consensus to direct a letter to be drafted and presented for review and approval.

Audience members who spoke regarding this item were: Diane Garte, Kim Wheeler, and Renate Cannon. All who spoke were in favor of discouraging the State of Florida from using parks as golf courses.

B. Request Board approval to re-appoint Marlon Gayle to the Central Florida Community Action Agency.

Comm. John Meeks made a motion to re-appoint Marlon Gayle to the Central Florida Community Action Agency as requested. Second was made by Comm. Brooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

**RECOGNIZE ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Sue Beaudette, Town of Bronson stated the Wacasassa Water and Wastewater Cooperative Board will meet tomorrow in Cedar Key at 1:00 P.M. at the Cedar Key Water & Sewer District office. A “Meet and Greet” is scheduled on Thursday, Sept 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 P.M. at the Dogan Cobb building for Clerk of Court Candidate, Jen Kerkhoff. The next Bread of the Mighty mobile food bank will take place on Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 A.M. at the park. The next Beautify Bronson day is scheduled for Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 10:00 A.M. A “Trunk or Treat” event is scheduled for Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 P.M. at the park.

**COMMISSIONERS’ REPORTS**

Thanks were offered by all Commissioners to Wilbur Dean for his service to Levy County.

**Comm. John Meeks** stated there will be a Chili Cook-Off at the Am-Vets Post 88 on October 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Comm. Mills** recognized Tara Howell, the new Levy County Planner and spoke of the new bank located at the old Baker Building, First Southern Bank.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COMMISSION, THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:06 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, Desiree Mills