

**REGULAR MEETING
LEVY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AUGUST 22, 2023**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Levy County Commissioners was held on August 22, 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. Rock Meeks
Comm. John 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. Hodge gave the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Comm. Mills.

EXPENDITURES

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

CHECK NUMBER	149557-149566, 149569-149677	
FUND	AMOUNT	
GENERAL REVENUE		79,979.03
ROAD		65,636.50
SHIP		53,861.45
MOSQUITO CONTROL		49.99
TRANSPORTATION		11,916.62
COURT FACILITIES		1,205.96
MISC GRANTS		3,115.18
EMS		49,495.01
FIRE		13,302.31
TOURIST DEVELOPMENT		1,704.48
UTILITIES		3,142.86
ADD COURT COSTS		1,773.24
BLDG INSPECT & SAFETY		4,222.09
CAPITAL PROJECTS		3,673.00
ROAD IMPRV & RESTORE		5,950.80
LANDFILL		117,923.58
TOTAL	\$	416,952.10
EFT/ACH PAYMENT	\$	49,897.65

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	149567
FUND	AMOUNT
GENERAL REVENUE	574.95
ROAD	129.24
EMS	25.57
LANDFILL	225.64
TOTAL	\$ 955.40

AMB SUPPLY, INC. (DBA LEVY JONES) EXPENDITURES

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

CHECK NUMBER	149568
FUND	AMOUNT
GENERAL REVENUE	106.00
LANDFILL	909.85
TOTAL	\$ 1,015.85

MINUTES

The minutes for the following meetings were presented for Board approval: Special Meeting, June 26, 2023, Regular Meeting, July 11, 2023, Regular Meeting, July 25, 2023, and Final Budget Workshop, August 1, 2023.

Comm. Mills made a motion to approve the minutes for the meetings listed above as requested. Second was made by Comm. John Meeks 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. Mills and the MOTION CARRIES.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Inglis resident, Roger Wimer spoke of his request at the previous meeting for a walkway at the Bird Creek Bridge and a change in signage. Comm. Mills responded to Mr. Wimer's inquiry, stating she had previously informed him fishing from navigable waters was illegal in the State of Florida and found it was not feasible to construct a walkway in this area.

Morrison resident, Rose Fant spoke of her complaint filed with Code Enforcement against neighboring property owner, Alan Fant for continuing unauthorized dumping. She encouraged the Board to enforce the recently adopted Ordinance against such activity.

DOT representative, Amanda Handley provided an update to the Board of DOT's efforts of putting together a Community Working Group for the City of Chiefland as part of the US19 PD & E Study. A committee has been formed and a meeting date has been set for September 14th at the Tommy Usher Center from 5:50 P.M. – 7:30 P.M. She stated the meeting is open to the public.

BUSINESS OR INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

LEVY COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DESIREE MILLS

Comm. Mills stated a business interested in purchasing the old Levy County Attorney Building (Baker Building) and old First Federal Building had contacted her. She inquired of the process allowing the sale of these 2 properties to take place.

Mr. Dean replied the properties would need to be made surplus and could then be advertised for sale.

Atty. Shalley stated since the county has no adopted Real Property Policy, the process would be to surplus the property as per statute and then do an invitation to bid, selling to the highest bidder.

Comm. Mills made a motion to surplus the old Levy County Attorney Building (Baker Building) and the old First Federal Building, currently occupied by Building and Zoning. Second was made by Comm. John Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

Diane Garte spoke of the bid process for the sale of the property discussed.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE/911

Nicole Gore requested on behalf of Mike West Board approval of Resolution 2023-41 approving a budget amendment in the amount of \$1,085,884 for FY 22-23 and FDLE LESA Grant Agreement. The LCSO has been awarded the LESA grant through FDLE to assist in funding starting pay increases for all sworn LE and Corrections personnel of the LCSO.

Comm. John Meeks made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-41 and Grant Agreement as presented. Second was made by Comm. Mills and the MOTION CARRIES.

SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

Tammy Jones

- A. Requesting Board approval to relocate the Precinct 6 Election Day polling place from Gulf Hammock Church of God to Otter Creek Baptist Church.
- B. Requesting Board approval to relocate the Precinct 12 Election Day polling place from Fanning Springs City Hall to College of Central Florida, Jack Wilkinson, Levy Campus.

Comm. Mills made a motion to approve the relocation of Precinct 6 and Precinct 12 Election Day polling places as requested. Second was made by Comm. John Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

- C. Requesting Board approval of Resolution 2023-40, amending the final budget for FY 2022-2023 in the amount of \$68,461 due to receipt of additional revenue from an Elections Security Grant.

Comm. Rock Meeks made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-40 as requested. Second was made by Comm. Mills and the MOTION CARRIES.

- D. Requesting Board approval of the Amendment to the BOCC budget in the amount of \$12,680 to appropriate funding to the Supervisor of Elections for DOR adjustment to salaries, FY 23.

Comm. John Meeks made a motion to approve the budget amendment for the Supervisor of Elections as requested. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

COUNTY COORDINATOR

Wilbur Dean

Requesting the Board ratify the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) between the BOCC and Levy County IAFF Local 4069 with the Chairman's signature, effective through September 30, 2024. The CBA allowed 2 articles per side to be opened for negotiations; 8: Hours of Work and OT; 9: Probationary Period; 19: Wages, and 30: Seniority.

Comm. John Meeks made a motion to ratify with the Chairman's signature the Collective Bargaining Agreement as presented. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Dean informed the Board the Agreement was received yesterday from the LIUNA 630, signed by their business agent.

PROCUREMENT

Alicia Tretheway, Coordinator

- A. Kimley-Horn representative, Elisabeth Manley gave a presentation to the Board of proposed Levy County Park (Concept A & B) to be located across the street from the Levy County Government Center.

Levy County Historical Society President, Toni Collins, spoke in opposition of the proposed park, as the property is located adjacent to the Historical Coulter Cemetery. She also pointed out, the Town of Bronson already has a large public park.

The Commissioners agreed by consensus to hold a Community Workshop for public input on this item.

- B. Kimley-Horn representative, Elisabeth Manley gave a presentation to the Board of proposed Landscaping Plans for the Levy County Government Center.

The Commissioners indicated they were pleased with the proposed plans as presented.

- C. Requesting the Levy County Board of County Commissioners’ review and approval of the Project Description/Scope of Services for State Lobbyists Services.

Comm. John Meeks made a motion to approve the Project Description/Scope of Services for State Lobbyists Services as requested with direction for staff to request an RFP for the position. Second was made by Comm. Mills and the MOTION CARRIES.

- D. Requesting Board approval of the lowest responsive responsible bidder Cortez Heating & Air, LLC (ITB_2023_014) for the replacement of the Air Conditioning Units in the Levy County Government Center Auditorium in the amount of \$37,687. The 3 bids received were:

Air Mechanical & Service Corp.	Tampa, FL	\$91,085
Johnson Controls	Gainesville, FL	\$53,317
Cortez Heating & Air, LLC	Palmetto, FL	\$37,687

Comm. John Meeks made a motion to approve the bidder, Cortez Heating & Air, LLC for the replacement of Air Conditioning Units in the Auditorium as presented. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Matt Weldon, Director

Requesting Board approval of a Budget Amendment from Contingency to correct shortage of \$3,300 to Contract Services for the Dubois Resources, Inc. Contract for Devil’s Hammock Wildlife Area check station. The Parks & Recreation Department’s 2023 budget for contract services was set at \$23,400 before the new Contract with Dubois Resources was finalized. The Contract amount is \$26,650 and the budget amendment will correct the difference.

Comm. Mills made a motion to approve the Budget Amendment as presented. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Alice LaLonde, Administrative Coordinator

- A. Requesting Board approval of Resolution 2023-36 to advertise a Public Hearing for the closure and abandonment of portions of right of way lying within the plat of the Town of Ambler (known as the Town of Montbrook), located in Levy County, Florida.

Comm. John Meeks made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-36 as requested. Second was made by Comm. Comm. Mills and the MOTION CARRIES.

- B. Requesting Board approval of Resolution 2023-37 to advertise a Public Hearing for the closure and abandonment of a portion of Tenth Street within the plat of Oakdale Heights, located in Levy County, Florida.

Comm. Hodge made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-37 as requested. Second was made by Comm. Mills and the MOTION CARRIES.

SHIP

Marlon Gayle, Housing Planner

- A. Requesting Board approval of Deferred Payment Loan Agreement in the amount of \$30,000 for Ronetta Latrease Thomas and Davarus Rashad Rush, PA #608 for an existing unit in Williston, FL.

Comm. Rock Meeks made a motion to approve the Deferred Payment Loan Agreement for Ronetta Latrease Thomas and Davarus Rashad Rush as presented. Second was made by Comm. John Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

- B. Requesting Board approval and the Chairman's signature for the Levy County SHIP Annual reports for closeout period 2020-2021 submitted to the Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC).

Comm. Mills made a motion to approve with the Levy County SHIP Annual reports for closeout period 2020-2021 with the Chairman's signature as requested. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

TRANSIT

Anna Elkins on behalf of Connie Conley, Director

- A. Requesting Board approval of Resolution 2023-35 amending the final budget for FY 2022-2023. The Trip & Equipment Grant award for 2023/2024 is in the amount of \$400,712 for a reimbursement amount of \$360,642 and began July 1, 2023.

Comm. John Meeks made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-35 as presented. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

- B. Requesting Board approval of the Title VI Plan update. The FDOT required an update of the Title VI Plant into a new template.

Comm. Mills made a motion to approve the Title VI Plan update as presented. Second was made by Comm. Hodge and the MOTION CARRIES.

PLANNING & ZONING

Stacey Hectus, Director

Swearing in of audience members was done by Atty. Shalley.

Comm. Brooks asked if any of the Commissioners had any ex-parte communication with the Petitioner. There was none.

- A. Requesting Board approval of Petition No. PP 23-02: McMillen Surveying, representing Sandra Beamer of Suggs' Estates, petitioning the Commission for a Preliminary Plat to Subdivide 52.817 acres, into eight (8) parcels of 5 to 10 acres MOL. Said parcel is located in Section 34, Township 12, Range 18 in Levy County, Florida with a land use of Urban Low Density Residential (ULDR) 1/1 and Zoning of Urban Single Family Residential, (R-1). Parcel number is: 0427000000.

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 Petition No. PP 23-02 as presented. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

- B. Requesting Board approval of Petition No. PP 23-03: McMillen Surveying, representing Jackie Willington of Hideaway Hills, petitioning the Commission for a Preliminary Plat to Subdivide 12.788 acres, into three (3), four (4) acre parcels MOL. Said parcel is located in Section 30, Township 12, Range 18 in Levy County, Florida with a land use and zoning of Rural Residential (R-R) 1/3. Parcel number: 0422400200.

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 Petition No. PP 23-03 as presented. Second was made by Comm. Mills and the MOTION CARRIES.

The meeting recessed at 10:53 A.M.

The meeting reconvened at 11:01 A.M.

- C. **INFORMATION:** Staff presentation by Legal, Engineering, Planning & Zoning, and the Health Department informing the Commission of the July 1, 2023 State law changes under the Department of Environmental Protection. These regulations require parcels of one acre or less, in the BMAP areas, to connect to central sewer or upgrade to an enhanced nutrient-reducing septic system if sewer is unavailable. The new law also requires updates to the Comprehensive Plan. On July 1, 2023, FDEP notified Levy County the Clean Waterways Act requires local governments within a Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) area to develop a wastewater treatment plan and/or an Onsite Sewage Treatment/Disposal System (OSTDS) remediation plan. Portions of Levy County lie within 2 different BMAP areas; the Rainbow River BMAP and the Suwannee River BMAP.

Ethan, from the Levy County Health Department spoke regarding the new septic requirements.

Andrew Carswell, County Engineer spoke regarding the BMAP's in Levy County.

Inglis Mayor, Steven Schwing expressed concerns of the cost to the residents of the required inspections to the new septic systems.

Rose Fant expressed concerns of the possibility of restrictions for farmers who use fertilizers on their crops in these areas.

Ms. Hectus requested direction from the Board for the Planning Department to draft a letter, to be approved and signed by the Chairman, and sent to DEP, making them aware of Levy County's current Unity of Title process to prevent re-platting of existing property.

The Commissioners agreed by consensus to direct Ms. Hectus to move forward with the drafting of a letter, as described.

Ms. Hectus then requested consensus by the Board to work with Ali Tretheway to seek a consultant from the existing list to assist with their Remediation Plan, Fertilizer Enforcement, Fertilizer Ordinance, draft and Comp Plan Policies. These all must be presented in draft format by February, the Comp Plan Policies by July.

The Commissioners gave direction for Ms. Hectus to work with Ali Tretheway to seek a consultant as requested.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sallie Ann Collins spoke of property size and the new septic requirements.

Town of Inglis, Mayor Schwing spoke to the Board regarding the previous request made by the Town of Inglis for Levy County to continue providing inspection/permitting services. He stated the Town is having a difficult time finding an inspector to perform these services and asked if the County could continue until they find someone. The Commissioners agreed to continue with the deadline for Levy County to provide inspection/permitting services for the Town of Inglis.

Sue Beaudette stated there would be a "meet and greet" time with Nikki Freid tomorrow at the new school building at 11:30 A.M. The "Bread of the Mighty" food drive will take place this Friday and the time has been changed to 9:30 A.M. due to the summer heat. Ms. Beaudette reported of the Waccasassa Water and Wastewater Cooperative Board meeting held last Wednesday in Cedar Key, stating everything was still moving forward and they now have a post office box. Wednesday, September 20th at 1:00 P.M. is the date and time for the next meeting and it will be in Otter Creek.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Comm. Mills stated the Affordable Housing Committee is planning their Annual Workshop and the date will be October 14th. Comm. Mills inquired of the status of new microphones for the Commissioners, which Mr. Dean responded Ali Tretheway had been in contact with someone and they have been ordered. Comm. Mills also stated she was excited about the landscaping presentation for the Government Annex as it was a step in the right direction.

Comm. Hodge stated he was interested in hiring a Grants Coordinator previously budgeted as this could greatly benefit the County.

Mr. Dean stated they are seeking firms for help with specific Grants, rather than hiring a Grants Coordinator.

Comm. John Meeks reported there will finally be a caution light installed at the intersection of CR326 and CR341.

Comm. Brooks spoke of businesses closer to Levy County being excluded from submitting bids for items through the DemandStar system. Comm. Brooks asked if alternative solutions could be explored.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COMMISSION, THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 12:21 P.M.

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEVY COUNTY, FL

Clerk of Court, Danny J. Shipp

Chairman, Matt Brooks