

**REGULAR MEETING
LEVY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JUNE 18, 2024**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Levy County Commissioners was held on June 18, 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 Coordinator – Wilbur Dean

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.

CHECK NUMBER	152360-152379, 152382-152490	
FUND	AMOUNT	
GENERAL REVENUE		103,745.11
ROAD		64,006.13
TRANSPORTATION		13,441.30
COURT FACILITIES		2,832.79
MISC GRANTS		876.95
EMS		36,816.36
FIRE		8,311.69
TOURIST DEVELOPMENT		10,925.12
UTILITIES		5,074.72
BLDG INSPECT & SAFETY		3,108.90
CRIME PREVENTION		3,119.90
CAPITAL PROJECTS		12,493.30
ROAD IMPRV & RESTORE		11,700.00
LANDFILL		107,295.05
TOTAL	\$	383,747.32
EFT/ACH PAYMENT	\$	1,876.20

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	152380
FUND	AMOUNT
GENERAL REVENUE	586.58
ROAD	121.92
MISC GRANTS	13.99
EMS	64.12
FIRE	139.67
BLDG INSPECT & SAFETY	19.98
CAPITAL PROJECTS	14.39
CONSTRUCTION	37.77
TOTAL	\$ 998.42

AMB SUPPLY, INC. (DBA LEVY JONES) EXPENDITURES

Comm. Rock 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.

CHECK NUMBER	152381
FUND	AMOUNT
GENERAL REVENUE	240.60
EMS	349.75
FIRE	349.75
TOTAL	\$ 940.10

MINUTES

The minutes for the Regular Board Meeting held May 7, 2024 were presented for Board approval.

Comm. Brooks made a Motion to approve the Regular Board Minutes for Meeting held May 7, 2024 as presented. Second was made by Comm. John Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

AGENDA ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, MODIFICATIONS

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

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

Jacqueline Martin, Human Resources Manager: Presentation of 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 June 30, 2024. Awards were presented to:

Rod Hastings	Animal Services	25 years
Bo Cox	Building Department	5 years
John MacDonald	Emergency Management	20 years
Benjamin Jerrels	Landfill	45 years
Wesley Parker	Landfill	5 years
Lavonia Carter	Road Department	20 years
James Cole	Road Department	10 years
Lincoln Cannon	Road Department	25 years

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bronson resident, Freddie Shaw expressed his disappointment with the Board for filing a lawsuit against the Clerk of Court for not permitting access to the finance system used by the Clerk’s office, ADG.

Maggie Smith spoke to the Board of problems she is facing with doing a parcel split of her property.

**BUSINESS OR INFORMATIONAL ITEMS
HUMAN RESOURCES**

Jacqueline Martin presented the Group Health Insurance Premiums for the 2024/25 fiscal year to the Commissioners for their review stating there was a .9% increase for the 24/25 fiscal year. Open enrollment has been scheduled for mid-August. Ms. Martin stated she would have the new insurance premiums on the agenda for approval at the next meeting.

Mr. Dean spoke in favor of implementing a “Health Savings Account”.

AGRICULTURE CENTER

Jessica Emerson, 4-H Agent: Requesting Board approval of the Memorandum of Agreement between the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and Levy County for the use of the Levy County 4-H Extension Office Classroom and Shooting Ranges for Hunter Safety Programs.

Comm. John Meeks made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as requested. Second was made by Comm. Brooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

PROPERTY APPRAISER

Jason Whistler requested Board approval to appropriate Reserves (Contingency) in the amount \$11,987.

Comm. John Meeks made a motion to approve the budget amendment appropriating Reserves (Contingency) as requested. Second was made by Comm. Brooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

Audience member, Linda Cooper requested clarification of why a transfer from Reserves (Contingency) was requested, as opposed to moving money within the Property Appraiser's budget. Explanation was given by Jared Blanton, Budget Officer.

LEVY COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Comm. Matt Brooks, District 5 expressed concerns with the language in Ordinance 2024-1, Lot Splits with regard to ownership of property and the part dealing with any person having an interest, mortgagee or lien on a piece of property or easement.

Audience member and surveyor, Steve McMillan provided further information regarding Comm. Brooks' concerns.

Atty. Shalley spoke of wording in the Ordinance and how parts could be changed.

Skipper Henderson, Levy Abstract and Title Company spoke of changes in land uses, stating the property owner's interest should be paramount.

Comm. John Meeks expressed an interest in changing the wording in the Ordinance regarding easements.

Other audience members who spoke regarding this item were: Bo Hobby, Linda Cooper, Johnny Hiers, Alphas Wilkerson and Ken Boyer.

Following discussion, direction was given by the Commissioners for Atty. Shalley to begin revisions to portions of ordinance 2024-1.

COUNTY COORDINATOR

Wilbur Dean

- A. Requesting Board approval of the Preliminary Rate Resolution 2024-25, Fire Protection Services for Fiscal Year 2024-25.

Comm. John Meeks made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-25 as presented. Second was made by Comm. Brooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

- B. Requesting Board approval of the Preliminary Rate Resolution 2024-26, EMS Tax Assessment for Fiscal Year 2024-25.

Comm. Rock Meeks made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-26 as presented. Second was made by Comm. Brooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

- C. Requesting Board approval of the Preliminary Rate Resolution 2024-27, Solid Waste Disposal for Fiscal Year 2024-25.

Comm. Rock Meeks made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-27 as presented. Second was made by Comm. Hodge and the MOTION CARRIES.

- D. Requesting Board approval of the Preliminary Rate Resolution 2024-28, Roadway Maintenance Services Assessments for Fiscal Year 2024-25.

Comm. Rock Meeks made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-28 as presented. Second was made by Comm. Brooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Mitch Harrell, Director presented the LCDPS FY 2024 First and Second Quarter Department Review.

SOLID WASTE

Travis Newsome, Assistant Director

Requesting Board approval to apply for the FY 24/25 Small County Consolidated Solid Waste Grant from FDEP for Equipment in the amount of \$93,750.

Comm. Rock Meeks made a motion to approve application for the FY 24/25 Small County Consolidated Solid Waste Grant as requested. Second was made by Comm. John Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Alice LaLonde, Administrative Coordinator

Requesting Board to direct staff to proceed with the acquisition in accordance with Sec. 2-307 of the County Code to accept donated Right of Way property on NE 60th Street, AKA CR 102. The Rees family made an offer to donate a strip of land (1.32 acres) on NE 60th Street to Levy County. This would serve as additional right of way to the existing County Road for future use. A contract will come back for Board approval and authorization to complete the acquisition.

Comm. John Meeks made a motion to proceed with the acquisition of donated right of way as presented. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

TOURIST DEVELOPMENT

Requesting the appointment of Norman Weaver, Chiefland City Commissioner and Debra Jones, City of Williston Councilwoman, to the Tourist Development Council (TDC) as set forth in the background information.

Comm. Brooks made a motion approving the appointment of Norman Weaver and Debra Jones to the Tourist Development Council as requested. Second was made by Comm. John Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

PROCUREMENT

Alicia Tretheway, Coordinator

Requesting Board approval to renew the Agreement between Hydradry, Inc. and Levy County for Remediation Services for the remaining 3 year term ending July, 2027.

Comm. Rock Meeks made a motion to approve renewal of the Agreement with Hydradry, Inc. as requested. Second was made by Comm. Hodge and the MOTION CARRIES.

The meeting recessed at 11:20 A.M.

The meeting reconvened at 11:34 A.M.

PLANNING & ZONING

Stacey Hectus, Director

- A. Discuss/Approval of the Comprehensive Plan Citizen Survey. As part of the Comprehensive re-write planned over the next 1.5 years, a survey is a way to gain a reasonable guide on growth patterns and other issues related to future planning in Levy County.
- B. Discussion/Guidance from the Levy County Board of County Commissioners on a Draft of Joint BOCC/Planning Commission Workshop Agenda.

Following discussion, the Commissioners agreed to setting the date for a Workshop in late August or Early September.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Comm. John Meeks spoke of increasing public participation in reviewing draft Ordinances.

Comm. John Meeks also spoke of his attendance at the Florida FFA Convention held recently, noting Levy County was well represented.

Comm. Hodge stated he would not be present at the budget meeting later today.

Comm. Brooks reported the Williston Independence Day Celebration will take place on Wednesday, July 3rd. The parade will begin at 5:00 P.M. followed by festivities at Horseman's Park at 7:00 P.M. with fireworks at dark. Comm. Brooks thanked the Road Department for their installation of flashing lights at intersections in the County and their efforts to make them safer.

Comm. Mills reported of her recent visit the rock pit to witness blasting. Comm. Mills also reported of the Flag Day Ceremony she attended. Comm. Mills inquired if an agenda rough draft could be sent to the Commissioners before it is sent out to everyone. Changing the deadline to Tuesday at noon for items to be submitted for placement on the agenda was discussed.

The meeting recessed at 12:59 P.M.

The meeting reconvened at 2:03 P.M.

LEVY COUNTY BUDGET OFFICE

Jared Blanton, Budget Officer (Temporary)

Presentation of Levy County – BOCC Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2025 Budget – Constitutional Officers, Agency Requests and Revenue Updates.

Mr. Blanton stated the following agencies requested no increase in funding from the BOCC and are built in at FY 24 levels again for FY 25:

Nature Coast Business Development Council	\$ 66,400
Levy County Health Department	\$165,500
Levy County Prevention Coalition	\$ 28,875
Meridian Behavioral	\$ 91,932
State Attorney	\$ 41,932
Public Defender	\$ 19,250

- The Levy ARC's request for FY 24/25 budget transfer from the BOCC is to increase the amount to \$90,000 - \$100,000 for one year only for renovations.

Comm. Brooks made a motion to approve the LARC budget request as presented. Second was made by Comm. John Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

- The Eighth Judicial Circuit Court Administration's request for FY 24/25 budget transfer from the BOCC is an increase of \$9,375.

Comm. Brooks made a motion to approve the Eighth Judicial Circuit Court Administration budget request as presented. Second was made by John Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

- The Levy County Sheriff's Office request for FY 24/25 budget transfer from the BOCC is \$21,346,676.

Comm. Brooks made a motion to approve the Sheriff's Department budget request as presented. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

- The Supervisor of Elections request for FY 24/25 budget transfer from the BOCC is \$962,000.

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

- The Property Appraiser's request for FY 24/25 budget transfer from the BOCC is \$1,382,132.

Comm. John Meeks made a motion to approve the Property Appraiser's budget request as presented. Second was made by Comm. Brooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

- The Clerk of Court's request for FY 24/25 budget transfer from the BOCC is \$1,526,880 and a total budget of \$1,880,880.

Mr. Blanton pointed out discrepancies within the calculated amount for the Clerk of Court's request and recommended the BOCC transfer amount of \$1,181,013 and a total budget of \$1,543,013.

Comm. John Meeks made a motion to approve the Clerk of Court's budget request as recommended by Mr. Blanton. Second was made by Comm. Brooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

The Commissioners discussed the amount of wage adjustment for Board employees. Mr. Dean stated he did not see where there would be any complications with union negotiations this year for a raise amount.

Following discussion, Comm. Brooks made a motion to approve option #47 (\$1,350 COLA), which will give a flat raise amount, rather than a percentage. Second was made by Comm. John Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

The next Budget Workshop is scheduled for July 16, 2024 at 2:00 P.M. to discuss Municipal Fire Requests, Revenue Updates, clean-up on Undecided Options, Capital Discussions, etc.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COMMISSION, THE MEETING
ADJOURNED AT 4:10 P.M.

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEVY COUNTY, FL

Clerk of Court, Danny J. Shipp

Chairman, Desiree Mills