

**REGULAR MEETING
LEVY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SEPTEMBER 2, 2025**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners was held on September 2, 2025 at 6:00 P.M. in the BoCC Meeting Room at the Levy County Government Center.

CALL TO ORDER: Madam Chair Mills called the Meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

INVOCATION: Given by Comm. Meeks

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Comm. Kennedy

ROLL CALL:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

- **Action Taken:**
 - Amendments: No changes
 - Motion Comm. Hodge
 - Second Comm. Hiers
 - Vote Outcome 5-0

PUBLIC COMMENT: *(Audio 4:44)*

- **Speakers:**
 - Diane Garte (Morrison)- notified BoCC that she and others met with officials in City of Newberry to discuss infrastructure projects. Has scheduled a second meeting on wastewater with the City of Newberry and wanted to know if anyone from the county wanted to attend with her and others.

Business or Informational Items

1. Requesting the Levy County Board of County Commissioners receive a presentation from the Suwannee River Water Management District about updates to the Floodplain Maps.

(Audio 10:17)

- **Presenter:** Leroy Marshall, Suwannee River Water Mgmt Requested By Comm. Charlie Kennedy
- **Discussion:** This is the second of three additional opportunities for public input that the BoCC requested SRWMD to hold in Bronson. Leroy Marshall was present and gave a breakdown to the public of how the flood map process works and who is responsible at each step. Suwannee River Water Mgmt is an agency that is compiling public comments to submit to FEMA regarding flood mapping in Bronson. He and his assistant also made themselves available after the presentation in the Government Center hallway.
 - Public Comments:
 - Elizabeth Phillips (Bronson) made a plea to the public to comment and make sure they are heard.
 - Emily Casey (Gulf Hammock) relayed to BoCC that maps have changed and Wekiva and Black Prong are not noted on maps correctly.
 - Donna Robinson (Bronson) wants to know how she can make a difference. How likely is it that the comments collected will be addressed individually.

2. Requesting the Levy County Board of County Commissioners to provide direction to staff on updating Levy County's current Animal Control Ordinance, codified in Chapter 14, Article II.

(Audio 54:20)

- **Presenters:** Brandy Cannon, Animal Services Manager & Adam Leath, Jacksonville Humane Society
- **Discussion:** Updating this ordinance is essential to improve public safety, protect animal welfare, and to provide clear direction on the roles and responsibility of both Animal Services and the Levy County Sheriff's Office. Following direction from the Board as to the specific priorities, I will work with staff to begin the process of updating the ordinance. A workshop will be held in the future for the public and subject matter experts can attend and fine tune the ordinance.
 - Public Comments

- **Presenter:** Bo Cox, Provisional Building Official
 - **Discussion:** Amending the land development code to allow portable sanitation services as a use in certain zoning districts; providing for inclusion in the code; providing a severability clause; providing a repealing clause; and providing directions to the Clerk and an effective date.
 - **Action Taken:**
 - Motion Comm. Hiers
 - Second Comm. Kennedy
 - Vote Outcome 5-0
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6. Requesting the Levy County Board of County Commissioners to approve the purchase of two (2) stretchers in the amount of \$68,312.86 from Stryker as a sole source noncompetitive procurement in accordance with Sec. 2-204(a)(1) of County Code. (Audio 1:40)

- **Presenter:** Chief Mitch Harrell, Public Safety Director
 - **Discussion:** This purchase will replace two (2) older units that have exceeded their typical life expectancy of 7-10 years (acquired in 2013). Stryker is the only retailer of the goods that it manufactures, and the Department Fleet is outfitted for Stryker stretchers specifically. Reduces back injuries to county EMS personnel.
 - **Action Taken:**
 - Motion Comm. Meeks
 - Second Comm. Hodge
 - Vote Outcome 5-0
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7. Requesting Levy County Board of County Commissioners to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Levy County and Florida Department of Management Services Contract No.: DMS-24/25-311. (Audio 1:46)

- **Presenter:** Clayton Drew
 - **Discussion:** This Agreement will allow the County and DMS to work together to connect each's independent radio systems to expand coverage and enhance interoperability.
 - **Action Taken:**
 - Motion Comm. Meeks
 - Second Comm. Hodge
 - Vote Outcome 5-0
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- **Presenter:** Caleb Hardee, Emergency Management Director
- **Discussion:** The purpose of the Emergency Preparedness and Assistance Grant is to provide state funds to assist local governments in preparing for all hazards as authorized by Section 252.373, Florida Statutes. Funds shall be allocated to implement and administer county emergency management programs, and to support the activities.
- **Action Taken:**
 - Motion Comm. Meeks
 - Second Comm. Hodge
 - Vote Outcome 5-0

- **Presenter:** Mary-Ellen Harper, County Manager
- **Discussion:** The Balmoral Group of the Gulf Consortium is the managing entity assigned by the U.S. Treasury to handle the Spill Impact Component, Pot 3, of the RESTORE Act Settlement. They are the responsible party for compliance and reporting, as well as distribution of funding through the U.S. Treasury. This agreement allows compliance, reporting, and funding for the Project 12-2 Suwannee Sound/Cedar Key Oyster Restoration Project with SWCA.
- **Action Taken:**
 - Motion Comm. Hiers
 - Second Comm. Hodge
 - Vote Outcome 5-0

- **Presenter:** Mary-Ellen Harper, County Manager

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Cindy Babione (Bronson)- Wanted to comment on Item #5. Thanked BoCC for approving and finding a suitable location for the business to operate out of. Wanted to know when the effective date was. Staff directed Mrs Babione to Dave Banton in Code Enforcement.
 - Jonathan Westwood (Chiefland)- Commented on the ordinance passed in 1:17 seconds with no public input or objections. This was an increase in the cost for landfill fees and limiting residents to 8 bags per day. Expressed displeasure with having to pay more for trash dumping because his household is bigger than most. Directed to staff for more information on his situation.
 - Linda Cooper (Williston)- Recommended doing away with landfill assessment and you pay for the amount of trash you bring.
 - Dana Henson (Williston)- Trash is less than it use to be on the road side now that residents can haul for free to the landfill.
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Commissioner Reports

- **Commissioner Meeks:**
 - None
 - **Commissioner Kennedy:**
 - None
 - **Commissioner Hiers:**
 - None
 - **Madam Chair Mills:**
 - Thank you to FDEM for helping get the Big Dock back reopened.
 - _____
 - **Commissioner Hodge:**
 - Asked for continued prayers for Langford family in loss of their child.
 - Cedar Key Big Dock Reopened
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Requesting Approval of Expenditures: \$2,798,248.68

- Madam Chair Mills requested approval of expenditures in the amount of \$2,798,248.68.
- **Action Taken:**
 - Motion Comm. Hodge
 - Second Comm. Meeks
 - Vote Outcome 5-0

Requesting Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

- **Requesting the Levy County Board of County Commissioners approval of minutes for the Budget Workshop held June 3, 2025, Regular Meeting held June 17, 2025 and Special Meeting held June 23, 2025.**
- **Action Taken:**
 - Motion Comm. Hodge
 - Second Comm. Hiers
 - Vote Outcome 5-0

Adjournment: 8:15 P.M.

Minutes Submitted by: Matt Brooks, Clerk of Court & Comptroller
Date Submitted: 09/02/2025