

BUDGET MEETING #5
LEVY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
August 19, 2025

The Budget Meeting #4 of the Board of County Commissioners was held on August 19, 2025 at 1:00 P.M. in the BoCC Meeting Room at the Levy County Government Center.

CALL TO ORDER: Madam Chair Mills adjourned the morning meeting and called to order the budget meeting at 1:00 P.M.

INVOCATION: Given by Comm. Meeks

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Comm. Hiers

ROLL CALL:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

- **Action Taken:**
 - Amendments: No changes
 - Motion Comm. Meeks
 - Second Comm. Hodge
 - Vote Outcome 4-0
-

Business or Informational Items

1. Requesting the Levy County Board of County Commissioners to receive a presentation on the Ad Valorem Tax Analysis and Revised Proposed Budget. (Audio 3:20)

- **Presenter:** Jason Rivera, Aclarian, Levy County Budget Officer
- **Discussion:** This revised proposed Budget includes all requests that were submitted. The millage and assessment rates were adjusted per the BoCC's direction from the July 22, 2025 Budget Workshop. The BoCC will give additional direction to staff about requested changes to the revised proposed budget following the presentation.
- [Levy County Proposed Budget Book Final Edit 2.pdf](#) (4.09 MB)
- Jason Rivera Discussion:
 - Fire Assessment Funded at 66.75% with BoCC setting rate at \$250
 - EMS Assessment Funded 73.75% with BoCC setting rate at \$250
 - BoCC initially directed staff to set millage cap at 9 mils from previously 8.25 mils and this budget presentation represents estimated revenues and all budget requests.
 - Budget went from \$202 million to approximately \$203 million.
 - BoCC was asked what cuts/adjustments if any they would like to see.
 - The budget presented encompassed all requests from internal and external agencies.
 - BoCC has a desire to see the increase requests cut in half.
 - There was a budget reduction option list provided by staff for BoCC consideration that was created on 8/15/25. There were cuts that totaled \$5 million.
 - Staff provided a solution to ask departments and external funding requests to make voluntary cuts before the BoCC.
 - The County Attorney reminded the BoCC that if decisions past this meeting are made the resolutions would need to be amended and adopted again at that same meeting.
- Public Discussion:
 - Renate Cannon (Chiefland)- wanted to know why the assessments have been doubled and tripled. Doesn't mind the millage being increased but the assessments she is against.
 - County Manager Mary-Ellen Harper & Madam Chair Desiree Mills clarified the ratios at which the assessments were increased and let the public know the last time assessments were raised was 2018.
 - Linda Cooper (Williston)- BoCC has not made enough cuts to warrant raising these assessments. Where have all of your departments made cuts? Veterans Affairs could be cut and DAV could provide the service for \$40,000 like Gilchrist. You should use the same budget from last year. Go back and sharpen your pencils.
 - Chief Lamar Stegall (Williston Fire Rescue)- municipal fire departments received no increases in funding from the BoCC last year. Please take this into consideration.
 - Chief Dwayne King (Chiefland Fire Rescue)- we did not ask for requests last year. Chiefland covers a district on contact and other areas for the county. Assessments are a good way to cover costs because it spreads the burden out to more people and the largest users to the system are users that don't pay property taxes. Had a wildfire last year and saved 14 homes and millions in assets. I am always available for questions.
 - Terry Witt (Bronson) asked about county employee raises and landfill assessment.
 - Madam Chair Mills responded 3% cost of living adjustment for county employees and the landfill assessment was currently staying the same from last year.

Adjournment

- **Time:** 2:06 P.M.

Minutes Submitted by: Matt Brooks, Clerk of Court & Comptroller

Date Submitted: 8/19/25