

**REGULAR MEETING
LEVY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AUGUST 5, 2025**

MINUTES

The Regular Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners was held on August 5, 2025 at 9:00 A.M. in the BoCC Meeting Room at the Levy County Government Center.

CALL TO ORDER: Madam Chair Mills called the Meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

INVOCATION: Given by Comm. Meeks.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Comm. Hiers

ROLL CALL:

COMMISSIONERSPRESENT:

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:
 - o Amendments: No Changes or Amendments
 - o Motion Comm. Hodge
 - o Second Comm. Meeks
 - o Vote Outcome 5-0

ELECTED OFFICIALS: *(Audio 4:53)*

No comment from present Elected Officials or Municipalities

PUBLIC COMMENT: *(Audio 6:45)*

- **Speakers:**
 - o Jeff Hardison- (Chiefland): Made brief statement on bloggers not being journalists.

O Alan Wills- (Williston): Thanked attorney for help on tax issue. Inquired as to County being in compliance with the State with Comprehensive Plan. Chair Mills, confirmed the County is in compliance.

5. Third Quarter Fiscal Year Quarterly Reports for April 1 – June 30, 2025. (Audio 1:19:40)

- **Presenter:** Mary-Ellen Harper, County Manager
 - **Discussion:** Receive reports from Departments on Q3.
 - BoCC held its annual Flag Day Ceremony on Friday, June 13, 2025.
 - Tisha Whitehurst has been selected as Levy County's new Division Director of Economic Development and Tourism. The Tourism Manager position has been posted.
 - Jessie Durrance has submitted his letter of retirement. Last working day is October 31st.
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6. Requesting the Levy County Board of County Commissioners to decline to serve as the coordinating unit of government for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant. (Audio 1:24:33)

- **Presenter:** Mary-Ellen Harper, County Manager
 - **Discussion:** This grant has historically funded equipment for the municipal police departments in Levy County. If the BoCC declines to serve as the coordinating unit of government for this grant, the Chair would sign the Certificate and it would get sent to FDLE, who would then request the governing body of each municipality, in descending order of population, serve as the coordinating unit of government. This would allow the municipalities to manage their own grants.
 - **Action Taken:**
 - o Motion Comm. Hodge
 - o Second Comm. Kennedy
 - o Vote Outcome 5-0
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7. Presentation on the Hurricane Housing Recovery Program (HHRP-Idalia) by Rebuilding Together North Central Florida Inc. (Audio 1:25:50)

- **Presenter:** Marlon Gayle, Housing Manager
- **Discussion:** Levy County received \$1.267 million to assist residents affected by Hurricane Idalia. The County entered into an agreement with Rebuilding Together NFC Inc. to administer a significant portion of these funds (\$600,000). This amount was recently increased to \$1 million and it was deemed prudent to provide an update on the administration of the program.

- o Program currently has 3 project in progress. Two (2) in Inglis and one (1) project in Chiefland. Outreach efforts within Levy County is on-going with 25 current applications.
 - **Speakers:**
 - o Julie Emminger- [Re]Pair Program Manager
 - o Rd Bonnaghan- [Re]Pair Executive Director
 - **Action Taken:**
 - o Presentation Only.
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8. Requesting Approval of ORDINANCE 2025-9; AN ORDINANCE OF LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA RELATING TO FEES, RATES, AND CHARGES(Audio 1:55:37)

- **Presenter:** Bo Cox, Development Services Director
 - **Discussion:** Florida Law authorizes counties to adopt reasonable fees, rates and charges for various county services and functions that are requested by and of benefit to private persons/entities.
 - **Action Taken:**

o Motion	Comm. Kennedy
o Second	Comm. Hiers
o Vote Outcome	5-0
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9. Requesting Approval of RESOLUTION NUMBER 2025-45. A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING INTERIM PLAT REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS TO COMPLY WITH SENATE BILL NO. 784 (2025) (Audio 1:58:07)

- **Presenter:** Bo Cox, Development Services Director
- **Discussion:** Senate Bill No. 784 (2025) was signed into law by the Governor and became effective on July 1, 2025, it requires that all plats and replats must be “administratively approved and no further action or approval by the governing body of a county . . . is required” and further the “governing body of the county . . . shall designate, by ordinance or resolution, an administrative authority to receive, review, and process” plats, “including designating an administrative official responsible for approving, approving with conditions, or denying the proposed plat.” This Resolution is adopted for the purpose of providing interim plat review and approval processes that comply with SB 784 until such time as the County can reasonably undertake review and prepare and adopt ordinance(s) to update the entirety of its Platting processes and requirements contained in Article XI of Chapter 50 of the County Code of Ordinances.

- o Comm. Hiers stated that this is a State mandated process.
 - **Action Taken:**
 - o Motion Comm. Hodge
 - o Second Comm. Kennedy
 - o Vote Outcome 5-0
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10. Requesting the Levy County Board of County Commissioners to receive and accept the Professional Services Committee ranking of the firms for RFP_2025_010- Levy County Comprehensive Plan Update 2050, direct the County Manager (or her designee) to negotiate with the proposers in ranked order, and authorize the County Manager to sign the agreement subject to approval by the County Attorney as to form and legal sufficiency. (Audio 2:00:00)

- **Presenter:** Bo Cox, Development Services Director
 - **Discussion:** \$100,000 has been budgeted for Professional Services in the FY25-26 Budget. The County received 4 responses to RFP 2025-10, the Professional Services Committee met and reviewed and scored the respondents based on the criteria set forth in the RFP (see scoring sheet in the back-up). Based on the scoring, the respondents were ranked as follows: 1. Infrastructure Consulting & Engineering, 2. JBrown Professional Group, 3. North Florida Professional Services, and 4. Inspire Placemaking Collective.
 - **Action Taken:**
 - o Motion Comm. Kennedy
 - o Second Comm. Hodge
 - o Vote Outcome 5-0
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11. Requesting the Levy County Board of County Commissioners to provide direction to staff on modifying the current Comprehensive Plan as it relates to Right of Way Credit in advance of the complete re-write of the Comprehensive Plan which will start this fall. (Audio: 2:07:19)

- **Presenter:** Bo Cox, Development Services Director
- **Discussion:** On March 18, 2025, the County Commission discussed Comm. Hiers Agenda Item #2 and directed County Staff to return with an analysis and proposed language to provide credit for right of ways when subdividing land. On March 24, 2025, County Staff provided a Memo on this topic (it is included in the back-up for this agenda item) explaining that a Comprehensive Plan Amendment and then Land Development Code Amendments will be necessary to make any revisions to minimum lot size requirements. At that time, it was not possible to process any County initiated Comprehensive Plan Amendments because the Plan was “not in compliance.” Based on the County’s adoption of Ordinance Number 2025-4, on July 9, 2025, the State issued a Notice of Intent to find the County’s Comprehensive Plan “In Compliance” and that finding becomes effective on July 31, 2025 (assuming no challenges are filed.) After that date, the County can prepare and process County-initiated Comprehensive Plan Amendments, if it desires.

- o Comm. Hiers questioned if this will resolve the current situations or will this push resolving those situation back?
- o On August 11, 2025 is the kick-off meeting regarding the Comprehensive Plan. At that time the County will provide a task list of main focus areas that need to be addressed as a priority and this will be on the list.

- **Action Taken:** Discussion Only

12. Requesting to appoint Diane Garte on the RESTORE Act Advisory Committee as a Citizen Representative (Resolution Number 2013-50) (Audio 2:17:00)

- **Presenter:** Brooke Smith, Grants Coordinator
- **Discussion:** To appoint Diane Garte to replace citizen representative, Dr. Richard Streeter, on the RESTORE Act Advisory Committee to fulfill Resolution Number 2013-50 requirement of three citizen representatives.
- **Action Taken:** Motion appointing Diane Garte to the RESTORE Act Advisory Committee.
 - o Motion Comm. Hodge
 - o Second Comm. Kennedy
 - o Vote Outcome 5-0

13. Requesting adopt Resolution Number 2025-46 A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA (Audio 2:17:38)

- **Presenter:** Brooke Smith, Grants Coordinator
- **Discussion:** RATIFYING AN APPLICATION FOR A RESILIENT FLORIDA PLANNING GRANT FOR AN ADAPTATION PLAN FROM THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION; PROVIDING DIRECTION AND AUTHORIZATION TO THE COUNTY MANAGER OR DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE THE GRANT AGREEMENT AND ALL OTHER GRANT DOCUMENTS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Florida Department of Environmental Protection-Resilient Florida Program (\$369,800.00). The grant agreement has been approved, as to form and legal sufficiency. The Resolution will ratify the grant agreement 25PLN46 Levy County Adaptation Plan that follows the Vulnerability Assessment in the Resilient Florida Program.
- **Action Taken:** Motion adopting Resolution Number 2025-46.
 - o Motion Comm. Hiers
 - o Second Comm. Kennedy
 - o Vote Outcome 5-0

PUBLIC COMMENT: (2:18:00)

- o Frank Donald (Williston) - Owner of property next to Frogs BBQ in Williston, made Board aware of permitting issue.

Comm. Reports

- **Comm. Meeks:**
 - o Nothing to report.
- **Comm. Kennedy:**
 - o Mary-Ellen, County Manager, is setting up meetings with SWMD to allow the citizens to discuss the new flood maps.
- **Comm. Hiers:**
 - o Nothing to report.
- **Madam Chair Mills:**
 - o Talking with staff at the Road Department they are expressed working with Ryan Asmus' help in the projects they are involved in.
- **Comm. Hodge:**
 - o Nothing to report.

Requesting Approval of Expenditures:

- Madam Chair Mills requested approval of expenditures in the amount of **\$ 3,046,583.32.**
- **Action Taken:**

o Motion	Comm. Meeks
o Second	Comm. Hodge
o Vote Outcome	5-0

Requesting Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

- **Date of Previous Meeting:** March 25 Meeting Minutes, April 22 Budget Meeting, May 13 Special Meeting
- **Action Taken:**

o Motion	Comm. Hodge
o Second	Comm. Kennedy
o Vote Outcome	5-0

Adjournment: 11:27 A.M.

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

Date Submitted: 8/05/2025