



# Levy County Planning Commission

Thomas J. Harper  
Parks Wilson, Chair  
Chris Mills  
J.D. Holmes III, Co-Chair  
Kelly Bishop

## AGENDA

Joint Workshop of the Levy County Board of County Commissioners and the Planning Commission  
July 22, 2024

6:00 PM

### I. CALL TO ORDER

Roll Call of Board of County Commissioners

Roll Call of Planning Commission

### II. ROLL CALL – Administrative Assistant, Elizabeth Vigorito

#### Board of County Commissioners:

John Meeks, Vice Chair

Rock Meeks

Desiree Mills, Chair

Tim Hodge

Matt Brooks

#### Planning Commission:

Kelly Bishop

Thomas Harper

Chris Mills

Co-Chair- J.D. Holmes III

Chair- Parks Wilson

### III. New Business – Director, Stacey Hectus

1. **Establishing a County Vision with measurable goals** geared towards prioritizing rural county sustainability and fiscally conservative governance focusing on the following areas:
  - A. **Agricultural Land Preservation:** Methods and strategies for encouraging and incentivizing agricultural land preservation. The key to positive engagement will be creating a program or programs which strongly encourage but do not require participation.
  - B. **MSD Strategy Review:** optimizing utilization of municipal service district to better serve the needs of the community.
  - C. **State of Florida Overreach**
  - D. **Major Roads Infringement**
  - E. **Agrotourism**
  - F. **Future Growth:** Proposed water & sewer connection between the Western towns of Levy County and Bronson or Chiefland is a healthy thing for the environment and residents, but it will create growth. Do we want urban sprawl along those utility lines if they are developed?
  - G. **Growth in Services** - Depending on the turnpike extension and the water / sewer system expansion, is there some sort of future planning for population growth? This is to consider the services that will be needed, roads, schools, etc. 5 years / 10 years / 20 years, etc.
  - H. **Hospital** – there is definite need for a hospital, or at least an ER facility connected to the one or more of the hospital systems in Gainesville. How to encourage that with incentives?

- I. **Public Transportation**-long-term inter-county public transportation will need to be upgraded, but currently, a present need is for transportation services for residents of Levy County who work in Gainesville to the three major hospitals, UF, etc. This would be good for both the residents of Levy County and the major employers in Gainesville. Hopefully, the funding would be primarily by the Gainesville employers with cooperation from Levy County providing the pickup parking areas. This would benefit people who either choose not to drive into Gainesville, or cannot afford to do so and would help by providing quality employees from Levy County. This is an economic development opportunity to increase income opportunities for citizens of Levy County. It would be environmentally sustainable and help relieve major traffic congestion by not having to individually drive, park, etc. We can explore a sort of agreement with those institutions with several pickup points in Levy County.
2. **Tools such as utilizing measurable data to target the focus areas listed above:**
  - A. Rural Persons/square mile
  - B. Governance Cost- \$/capita
  - C. Affordability- Income/Cost of Living
  - D. Water Balance- Recharge/Usage
  - E. Nutrient Balance- Septics, Concentrated Animals, Agriculture

#### **ADJOURN**

Should any agency or person decide to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at this meeting, such agency or person will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose, may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, person needing a special accommodation or an interpreter to participate in the proceeding should contact the County Clerk's Office at (352) 486-5266, or the Office of the Board of County Commissioners at (352) 486-5217, at least two (2) days prior to the date of the meeting. Hearing-impaired persons can access the foregoing telephone number by contacting the Florida Relay Service at 1-800-955-8770 (Voice) or 1-800-955-8771 (TDD).