

**REGULAR MEETING  
LEVY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
JANUARY 7, 2020**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Levy County Commissioners was held on January 7, 2020 at 9:00 A.M. in the Levy County Board of County Commissioners meeting room with the following Commissioners present:

Chairman Matt Brooks  
Comm. John Meeks  
Comm. Rock Meeks  
Comm. Lilly Rooks  
Comm. Mike Joyner

Also present were:

County Attorney – Anne Bast Brown  
County Coordinator – Wilbur Dean  
Clerk of Court – Danny J. Shipp

Chairman Matt Brooks called the Meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. Comm. Joyner gave the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Comm. John Meeks.

**EXPENDITURES**

Comm. Joyner made a motion to approve the following expenditures presented for payment. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

<b>CHECK NUMBER</b>	<b>136594-136704</b>
<b>FUND</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
GENERAL REVENUE	1,655,943.03
ROAD	24,795.84
TRANSPORTATION	13,426.97
911	15,500.92
COURT FACILITIES	2,300.64
MISC GRANTS	2,671.60
EMS	26,182.73
FIRE	8,222.19
TOURIST DEVELOPMENT	2,160.56
UTILITIES	204.56
BLDG INSPECT & SAFETY	1,709.01
CAPITAL PROJECTS	5,236.00
LANDFILL	1,322.36
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,759,676.41</b>
<b>EFT/ACH PAYMENT</b>	<b>\$ 284,222.87</b>

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Toni Collins, President of the Levy County Historical Society shared information to the Board stating the Levy County Historical Society has purchased the “White Building”, located on Picnic Street and SR27 in Bronson had recently been purchased and it will be renovated into a “County Historical Site”.

Williston resident, Kim Wheeler spoke regarding M-CORES and her concern of what route the new toll road will take, specifically if it will pass through Levy County. She encouraged the Board to push for a “no-build” option.

Williston resident, Harriet Jones also spoke regarding M-CORES, Northern Connector toll road and her disappointment with the lack of information made available to the public.

Bronson resident, Robbie Blake spoke of the “Consent Agenda” item on today’s agenda stating she is not in favor of this.

## **BUILDING & ZONING/PUBLIC HEARING**

Robert Boulette, Development Director

Comm. Brooks asked if there was any ex-parte communication by any of the Commissioners. Comm. Joyner stated he had ex-parte communication regarding this item.

The swearing in of audience members wishing to speak regarding this item was done by Atty. Brown.

Mr. Boulette requested Board approval of a Hardship Variance for Doris Sample to allow a second dwelling to care for her parents on a parcel of land located in Section 22, Township 13S, Range 18E, in Levy County. Said parcel contains 9.80 acres more or less and is located in an “ARR” Agriculture/Rural Residential zone.

Comm. Brooks asked if anyone in the audience wished to speak for against the Hardship Variance presented. Audience members who spoke were: Harriet Jones, Doris Sample.

Comm. Joyner made a motion to approve the Hardship Variance for Doris Sample as presented. Second was made by Comm. John Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

## **LEVY COUNTY COMMISSIONER**

Matt Brooks, Chairman inquired of which Committees/Departments each Commissioner wished to serve for 2020. The Board Appointments/Committees and Departments are listed below:

**2020 Board Appointments/Committees**

**2020 Board Departments**

**District 1 – John Meeks**

Nature Coast Business Development Council  
North Florida Regional Planning Council  
Resiliency Florida Board of Directors  
RESTORE Act/Gulf Consortium  
Small County Coalition Board of Directors  
Transportation Disadvantaged – Alternate  
Middle & Lower Suwannee River & Withlacoochee River Task Force

Maintenance/Construction  
Planning  
Public Safety  
Transit  
Veterans

**District 2 – Rock Meeks**

Career Source (CLM)  
Florida Leaders Organized for Water  
Greenways and Trails  
Nature Coast State Trail  
Northern Turnpike Task Force

Parks/Mosquito Control  
Plat Review  
Road Department  
Water/SHIP

**District 3 – Mike Joyner, Vice-Chairman**

County Agent Advisory Board  
Levy County Jail Diversion Planning Committee  
Value Adjustment Board

Agriculture Center  
Development (Building & Zoning)

**District 4 – Lilly Rooks**

Canvassing Board – Alternate  
Nature Coast Oyster Alliance  
Small County Coalition Board of Directors

Animal Services  
Library

**District 4 – Matt Brooks, Chairman**

Canvassing Board  
Suncoast Corridor Task Force  
Tourist Development Council  
Transportation Disadvantaged  
Value Adjustment Board  
N Fla. Economic Development Partnership Bd. of Directors

Courthouse Space – Board Chairman  
Emergency Management  
Finance/Insurance – Board Chairman  
Human Resources – Board Chairman  
Legal  
Solid Waste (Landfill)  
Tourism Development

Comm. Joyner made a motion to approve the 2020 Board Appointments/Committees and Departments as listed above. Second was made by Comm. John Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

## **SHERIFF'S OFFICE – 911**

Mike West, 911 Coordinator requested Board approval of Resolution 2020-006, amending the final budget for FY 2020. This budget amendment is necessary to allow for funds received from the State E911 Board in the form of a grant. There are two (2) grants, one in the amount of \$31,531 to cover the cost of a Voice Recorder Upgrade and another in the amount of \$178,092 to cover the cost of the annual GIS Maintenance.

Comm. Joyner made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-006 as presented. Second was made by Comm. Rooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

### **LEVY COUNTY GRANT COORDINATOR**

Tisha Whitehurst, Coordinator

Requesting Board approval of Resolution 2020-001 amending Section 8 of Resolution 2013-08 extending the Sunset Clause until the year 2029.

Comm. Joyner made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-001 as requested. Second was made by Comm. John Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

Mrs. Whitehurst stated there is still a vacancy for a Citizen Representative on the RESTORE Act Advisory Committee. Kim Wheeler stated she is interested. Mrs. Whitehurst stated she would be in contact with her regarding this.

## **PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENT**

Alicia Tretheway, Coordinator

- A. Requesting Board approval of Resolution 2020-002 amending the final budget for FY 2020 in the amount of \$75,000 for continued renovations to the Annex building.

Comm. Rock Meeks made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-002 as requested. Second was made by Comm. John Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

- B. Requesting Board approval of Resolution 2020-004 amending the final budget for FY 2020 in the amount of \$1,200 for the appraisal of the Road Department Pit Land.

Comm. Rooks made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-004 as requested. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

- C. Requesting Board approval of a budget amendment appropriating reserves (contingency) in the amount of \$5,930 for professional services, and equipment \$1K< \$5K. This budget amendment is necessary to purchase equipment/professional services for the Levy County Sheriff's Office.

Comm. Joyner made a motion to approve the budget amendment in the amount of \$5,930 as requested. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

Sheriff McCallum gave further information regarding this item.

## **ROAD DEPARTMENT**

Alice LaLonde, Administrative Manager

Requesting Board approval of Resolution 2020-005 amending the Final Budget for FY 2020 increasing the Road Department fund by \$2,983 for Sidewalk Construction LAP Grant, from Mastadon Court to 63<sup>rd</sup> Street. Mrs. LaLonde explained this is for the design phase of the project.

Comm. John Meeks made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-005 as requested. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dana Sheffield spoke to the Board expressing his gratitude of the Department of Public Safety as he needed the services of an ambulance on Christmas morning. He stated he was treated well and they were very professional.

Terry Witt inquired of the total renovation cost for the Tax Collector's office and the Board office at the Annex. Comm. Brooks advised Mr. Witt he would need to contact Mrs. Fugate regarding her portion of the renovation cost and the Board's portion could be obtained from Ali at the Board office.

Sallie Ann Collins inquired of when the website would be available to view online and when the auditorium issue would be taken care of. Comm. Brooks advised Ms. Collins to stop by the Board Office after the meeting for the website information.

Mr. Dean advised Ms. Collins the auditorium will be made available at a later date when other offices are made available for the departments. He explained they are attempting to keep the cost as low as possible by utilizing the Maintenance Department for all renovations needed unless it is necessary for outside contractors.

## **RECOGNIZE ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Mayor Robinson, Williston spoke regarding old WHS building and stated there will be discussion this evening at the Williston City Council meeting for anyone interested in what may be coming to this space. He also spoke of the area in Williston known as "Block 12" and plans to bring this area back to life.

Oz Barker, Property Appraiser spoke briefly to the Board of his office and stated he will be happy to make to the move to the Annex when his office space is completed.

## COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

**Comm. John Meeks** stated there is an upcoming meeting of the Lower and Middle Suwannee River/Withlacoochee River Task Force meeting coming up tomorrow in Valdosta, GA at 6:00 P.M. The State Legislature will convene next Tuesday for all who are interested.

Comm. John Meeks spoke of a letter he received from Southwest Florida Water Management District and spoke regarding his disappointment in them for doing nothing to help restore wetlands in Levy County. Comm. John Meeks stated he would like to have Levy County removed from this district and added to the Suwannee River Water Management District. He would like to send a letter to both Senator Bradley and Representative Stone and any other members who have anything to do with natural resources or agriculture to encourage them to sponsor a bill which would support this.

## NON-AGENDA ITEM

Comm. Joyner made a motion to hear a non-agenda item regarding Levy County's desire to be removed from the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFMD) as spoken of by Comm. John Meeks. Second was made by Comm. Rooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

Comm. Joyner made a motion to approve preparing and sending a letter to Senator Bradley and Representative Stone as requested by Comm. John Meeks with the signature of each Commissioner. Second was made by Comm. Rooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

**Comm. Rooks** stated she had received numerous calls lately regarding wi-fi and broadband access in Levy County. She wants the Board to push for better accessibility.

Members of the audience who spoke regarding this item were: Dave Ross and Karen Giroux.

**Comm. Rock Meeks** gave an update from the Northern Turnpike Task Force meeting he attended which was held on December 18, 2019. He stated there was still no indication given of the path this road will take. Comm. Rock Meeks stated there would be a community open house at the College of Central Florida in Chiefland on Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. and on Thursday, January 30<sup>th</sup> at the National Guard Armory in Crystal River from 5:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. Task Force Meeting #4 will be held Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. in Fanning Springs.

**Comm. Brooks** echoed what Comm. Rock Meeks stated with information from the Suncoast Task Force meetings he had attended recently. The next scheduled open house meetings are: January 27<sup>th</sup> in Perry at the IFAS auditorium from 5:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M., January 28<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with the Northern Turnpike open house at the College of Central Florida in Chiefland, and on January 30<sup>th</sup> at the National Guard Armory in Crystal River. Task Force Meeting #4 will be held February 11<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. in Madison.

Comm. Brooks requested Board discussion of Resolution 2013-52 which established an agenda and public participation policy. Items Comm. Brooks would like to add/change are listed below:

- Roll Call of Commissioners called by Clerk's Office.
- Approval of agenda which would include any additions, deletions and changes.
- Proclamations/Presentations.
- Consent items.
- Consent items pulled for discussion. Members requesting further information on items placed under "Consent Items", may withdraw those items and place them here, for further discussion.

Following discussion, Comm. John Meeks made a motion to approve changes to the agenda format to include:

- Roll Call of Commissioners called by Clerk's Office.
- Approval of agenda which would include any additions, deletions and changes.
- Proclamations/Presentations.

Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

Upon request by Comm. Brooks, Atty. Brown will review the policy and let the Commissioners know if any changes would need to be made.

Wilbur Dean reminded the Commissioners the next regular Board meeting on January 21<sup>st</sup> is scheduled to take place at 6:00 P.M.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COMMISSION, THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:25 A.M.

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
LEVY COUNTY, FL

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Clerk of Court, Danny J. Shipp

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Chairman, Matt Brooks