

**REGULAR MEETING
LEVY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JANUARY 23, 2018**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Levy County Commissioners was held on January 23, 2018 at 9:00 A.M. in the Levy County Board of County Commissioners meeting room with the following Commissioners present:

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

Also present were:

County Attorney – Anne Bast Brown
County Coordinator – Wilbur Dean

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

EXPENDITURES

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

CHECK NUMBER	129687-129821
FUND	AMOUNT
GENERAL REVENUE	312,562.28
ROAD	28,763.35
SHIP	22,000.00
MOSQUITO CONTROL	1,281.62
TRANSPORTATION	12,183.71
COURT FACILITIES	4,010.54
MISC GRANTS	4,158.39
EMS	48,106.32
FIRE	117,372.42
TOURIST DEVELOPMENT	8,169.76
UTILITIES	62.56
ADD COURT COSTS	702.98
LANDFILL	87,721.65
TOTAL	\$ 647,095.58
EFT/ACH PAYMENT	\$ 12,589.10

MINUTES

The minutes for the Regular Board Meeting held on December 5, 2017 were presented for approval.

Comm. Brooks made a motion to approve the Regular Board Minutes from December 5, 2017 with the correction as stated. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeff Clements spoke to the Board of his concerns with the excessive trash on county roadways and illegal dumping.

Comm. Joyner responded to Mr. Clements concerns stating he had been in touch with officials in Tallahassee and asked Alice LaLonde to provide information. Mrs. LaLonde stated she has been in contact with officials in Tallahassee since Comm. Joyner's inquiry and is pursuing funding for an additional inmate work crew supervisor and the equipment which would be needed.

Audience members who spoke regarding this issue were: Toni Collins, Renate Cannon and Dana Sheffield.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Jeff Scott, District Safety Program Engineer

Presentation on the recommendation that the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) completed on the safety reviews of several roadway locations in Levy County. Mr. Scott spoke of several areas which reviews had been requested and the recommendations from DOT:

Location #1: SR 24 from NE 92nd Place to NE 99th Place/Andee Road, Bronson, FL.

Recommendations:

- Construct a northbound left-turn lane at the Chevron Gas Station frontage of a length sufficient to accommodate both driveways. Construct a southbound left-turn lane at NE 99th Place/Andee Rd.

Location #2: SR 45 (US 41) from CR 323 to CR 326.

Recommendations: Intersection of SR 45 (US 41) and CR 323

- A traffic signal warrant analysis was conducted at the intersection of SR 45 (US 41) and CR 323. The analysis determined a traffic signal was not warranted.
- Available sight distance for vehicles on CR 323 was verified to be adequate.
- Signing improvements including dual-indicated oversized stop signs and "Stop Ahead" warning signs may be considered on the CR 323 westbound approach.

Recommendations: Intersection of SR 45 (US 41) and CR 326

- Crash analysis did not show any correctable crash trend. No recommendations made.

Location #3: SR 45 (US 41) at SR 121 (NE 6th Boulevard)

Recommendations:

- Based on the crash analysis, no improvements are recommended at this time.

Location #4: SR 45 (US 41) at SR 121/CR316

Recommendations:

- Based on the crash analysis, no improvements are recommended at this time.

Upon completion of Mr. Scott's presentation, Comm. John Meeks then read into record a letter from the Board prepared by Atty. Brown addressed to Greg Evans at the Florida Department of Transportation expressing concerns of dangerous conditions, traffic accidents, near misses and fatalities in several areas including the intersection of SR 121/CR 326 and the intersection of US 41/CR 326. The county requests further studies and seeks corrective action for the dangerous conditions in these intersections including the possibility of enhanced signage signals, road improvements, or reconfiguration of the subject roadways.

Comm. Rooks made a motion to approve the prepared letter to be sent to DOT as read by Comm. John Meeks. Second was made by Comm. Joyner and the MOTION CARRIES.

NATURE COAST BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

David Pieklik, Executive Director presented a progress and activities report, brief summary of projects, upcoming events and other noteworthy items.

NON-AGENDA ITEM

Comm. John Meeks stated a non-agenda item was requested by Comm. Brooks on behalf of the Williston Police Department/Animal Control.

Comm. Rock Meeks made a motion to hear a non-agenda item. Second was made by Comm. Brooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

Comm. Brooks stated he had been contacted by the City of Williston and Wayne Parsons with the Williston Police Department requesting a letter of support from the Board for the application of a Florida USDA Rural Development Grant, which will be used to construct a new Animal Control Facility at the Williston Industrial Park. Comm. Brooks then read the letter into public record.

Wayne Parson from Williston Police Department spoke to the Board regarding the new Animal Control facility in the City of Williston. He stated the grant request will be near \$75,000.

Comm. Brooks made a motion to approve sending the letter of support as requested. Second was made by Comm. Joyner and the MOTION CARRIES.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

COUNTY COORDINATOR

- A. Wilbur Dean announced the new Tourism Director is Tisha Whitehurst. Mr. Dean stated after the results of the interviews, it was decided to look in-house before re-advertising and Mrs. Whitehurst was contacted as she had previously expressed an interest in the position.

Mrs. Whitehurst spoke to the Board and thanked them for the opportunity to serve as the Tourism Director. She stated this job will fit nicely together with the RESTORE Act because it is an acronym for Tourism Development as well.

- B. Mr. Dean requested Board approval and the Chairman's signature for Task Order 18-50100374 for the purpose of Dewberry/Preble-Rish (DPR) as the Engineer to provide professional engineering services for the University Oaks Water System improvements for Levy County.

Jaime Bell from Dewberry/Preble-Rish spoke to the Board stating the RIVER Grant is in the amount of \$122,250 and the county's portion is up to \$5,000 which can be done by in-kind services such as minor road repairs, the rock and labor.

Comm. Rock Meeks made a motion to approve Task Order 18-50100374 as requested. Second was made by Comm. Joyner and the MOTION CARRIES.

- C. Mr. Dean requested Board approval of a letter of support and authorization for Chairman John Meeks candidacy for an executive committee position on the Gulf Consortium.

Comm. Rooks made a motion to approve a letter of support for Chairman John Meeks' candidacy for an executive committee position of the Gulf Consortium as requested. Second was made by Comm. Joyner and the MOTION CARRIES.

- D. Mr. Dean requested Board approval of Resolution 2018-003; a resolution expressing support for the designation of Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC) and approval of the letter supporting re-certification of RACEC designation.

Comm. Brooks made a motion to approve Resolution 2018-003 and the letter supporting re-certification of RACEC designation as requested. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

SHIP

Marlon Gayle, Housing Planner requested Board approval of the Deferred Payment Loan Agreement in the amount of \$22,000.00 for Raymond and Kiaira Garner, PA #551 for an existing unit in Bronson, FL 32621.

Comm. Brooks made a motion to approve the Deferred Payment Loan Agreement as requested. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

John MacDonald, Director requested Board approval and the Chairman's signature on 17-DS-V4-05-48-390 contract extension. Mr. MacDonald explained this is a modification to the Subgrant Agreement between the Division of Emergency Management and Levy County. The amount of grant funds is \$17,288.00 and this gives an extension until June 30, 2018 for expenditure of these funds.

Comm. Rock Meeks made a motion to approve the modification of the Subgrant Agreement as requested. Second was made by Comm. Rooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Mitch Harrell, Director requested Board approval and the Chairman's signature on two (2) applications for the Department of Health (DOH) EMS Matching Grant. Chief Harrell stated they are requesting 90/10 grants. The following items are requested for funding by the grants:

<u>Items to be Purchased</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
10 LUCAS CPR devices	\$230,000
8 Stretcher Auto Load Systems	\$255,000

Comm. Rock Meeks made a motion to approve the Chairman's signature on the two (2) applications as requested. Second was made by Comm. Rooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Alice LaLonde, Administrative Manager gave an update on the Cedar Key Airport stating the contractor fixed the fence and the runway lights are all now functional. She reported widening of CR 343 is ongoing. Mrs. LaLonde stated she will be going to Inglis today to check progress on the sidewalk in Inglis.

Mrs. LaLonde then requested Board approval of Resolution 2018-002; authorizing the executing of an agreement with FDOT for a SCOP Grant in the amount of \$2,650,000.00 for resurfacing and widening of CR40 from Bird Creek Boat Ramp to US 19 in Levy County, Florida. Mrs. LaLonde stated this road is approximately 7 miles.

Comm. Rock Meeks made a motion to approve Resolution 2018-002 as requested. Second was made by Comm. Rooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

Audience members who spoke regarding this item were Toni Collins and Terry Witt.

NON-AGENDA ITEM/TRANSIT DEPARTMENT

Comm. Rock Meeks made a motion to hear a non-agenda item from the Transit Department. Second was made by Comm. Brooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

Mrs. Conley requested Board approval of corrections as requested by FDOT to the 5339 and 5311 grant applications submitted in December.

Comm. Brooks made a motion to approve corrections to the 5339 and 5311 grant as requested. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

TRANSIT DEPARTMENT

Connie Conley, Director requested Board approval of Resolution 2018-004; amending the final budget for fiscal year 2017-2018. This includes budget changes to increase the Equipment line in the amount of \$68,364.00 to purchase a bus under the Shirley Conroy RCAP Grant to be fully reimbursed and increase the Repairs/Maintenance-Equipment line by \$20,265.00 for funds received through insurance reimbursements for damages to busses.

Comm. Rock Meeks made a motion to approve Resolution 2018-004 as requested. Second was made by Comm. Rooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

The meeting recessed at 10:40 A.M.

The meeting reconvened at 10:54 A.M.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

- A. Atty. Brown stated the Board had hired the firm Lewis, Longman & Walker in 2014 to provide limited legal services related to retirement issues. Their services were only used once and the county was not charged for those services. The Human Resources Department indicates it has no anticipated future need for their services and has considered the engagement terminated, however, the engagement letter was never formally terminated. LLW desires to represent a company called Levy Stone in connection with a mining project in Levy County. Atty. Brown stated LLW has requested the County waive any conflict which may exist so it may provide representation to Levy Stone. Atty. Brown provided a proposed letter indicating the County's approval of LLW's requested waiver and requested Board approval to execute the letter.
- B. Atty. Brown provided a proposed letter indicating the County's approval of LLW's requested waiver and requested Board approval to sign and execute the letter.

Comm. Joyner made a motion to approve items A and B as presented by Atty. Brown. Second was made by Comm. Brooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Terry Witt questioned when the decision was made to hire Tisha Whitehurst as the Tourism Director. He also questioned what the job's title would be as she is currently the Grants Coordinator.

Mr. Dean answered Mrs. Whitehurst had previously expressed interest in the position and when the Board did not make a decision after the interviews, he contacted her about the position after speaking with the Chairman of this idea.

Renate Cannon asked if she would be receiving a pay increase.

Comm. John Meeks answered she would receive an increase, but her pay increase would be less than that of the former Tourism Director.

Toni Collins asked when the pay increase would be effective. Mr. Dean answered, it will be effective this pay period.

Terry Witt asked what the salary would be. Comm. John Meeks answered this information could be obtained from Mrs. Martin.

Linda Cooper asked if Mrs. Whitehurst had applied for the position. Comm. John Meeks answered, yes.

Ms. Cooper also asked how her position was defined. Mr. Dean answered the job description has been redefined as Tourism Director/RESTORE Act Coordinator.

Dana Sheffield invited everyone to the Cross City Expo on March 25th at the Cross City Airport from 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. He stated there will be a car show as well as helicopter rides and hot air balloon rides.

Terry Witt asked if Comm. John Meeks being on the Canvassing Board would be a conflict for Comm. Rock Meeks running for re-election this year. Atty. Brown answered it is not a conflict for the Board of County Commissioners. She suggested he contact Tammy Jones, Supervisor of Elections to see if there might be any conflict with her.

Toni Collins stated the Cedar Key Light Station open house will be taking place on the weekend of February 17th. She stated this will be the last open house until December.

Mrs. Collins stated the Levy County Historical Society will be conducting a three-presentation on the Seminole Indian wars at the Cedar Key RV Resort. The first was done this past Saturday with 107 in attendance and the next will be on Saturday, February 10th at 2:00 P.M.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Comm. Joyner announced the road dedication for Haygood Ellzey will be on the 25th at 11:00 A.M.

Comm. Rooks announced on February 22nd, the DEP will be at the UF Biological Station in Cedar Key at 10:00 A.M. to discuss recycling.

Comm. Brooks stated this is Literacy Week in Levy County and he will be going to Joyce Bullock Elementary to read to the students.

Comm. Brooks spoke of Prop. 95 and how it would affect local decision making if passed through Legislature.

Comm. John Meeks reported of the Martin Luther King, Jr. event held in Bronson stating it was well attended in spite of the weather.

Comm. John Meeks stated he will be attending a broadband meeting in Pensacola in February and hopes there will be information for bringing internet access to rural areas such as Levy County.

Comm. John Meeks stated the RESTORE Act multiyear implementation plan is available online for public comment at restoreact@levycounty.org.

Comm. John Meeks also spoke of Prop. 95 and was not in favor of State control of local government decision making on the local level.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COMMISSION, THE MEETING
ADJOURNED AT 11:50 A.M.

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEVY COUNTY, FL

Clerk of Court, Danny J. Shipp

Chairman, John Meeks