

**REGULAR MEETING  
LEVY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MARCH 6, 2018**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Levy County Commissioners was held on March 6, 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. Rock Meeks gave the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**EXPENDITURES**

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

<b>CHECK NUMBER</b>	<b>130076-130243</b>
<b>FUND</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
GENERAL REVENUE	1,236,868.32
ROAD	152,776.46
SHIP	401.02
TRANSPORTATION	6,542.65
911	14,596.00
COURT FACILITIES	3,014.55
MISC GRANTS	46,467.31
EMS	43,321.28
FIRE	6,452.64
TOURIST DEVELOPMENT	47.35
UTILITIES	4,712.37
ADD COURT COSTS	702.98
IMPACT FEES – PARKS	2,330.72
CAPITAL PROJECTS	460.96
LANDFILL	91,915.34
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,610,609.95</b>
 <b>EFT/ACH PAYMENT</b>	 <b>\$ 279,526.50</b>

**LEVY COUNTY CITIZEN – RUBEN ROTHSCHILD**

Mr. Rothschild requested the proper repair of dirt roads in Suwannee Highlands, i.e. fill in pot-holes and provide proper grading.

Mr. Dean stated he would have someone at the Road Department check the road Mr. Rothschild referred to and have repairs made, if necessary.

## **TOWN OF INGLIS**

Sallie McCranie spoke to the Board on behalf of Mayor Drinda Merritt requesting Board approval to lease the 27 acres adjacent to the South Levy Park to the Town of Inglis in order to improve the recreational activities to the South Levy area. Ms. McCranie also requested approval for the County Attorney to work with the Inglis Town Attorney in preparing the lease agreements.

Comm. Joyner made a motion to allow Atty. Brown to work with the Inglis Town Attorney regarding the lease agreements as requested. Second was made by Comm. Rooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

## **LEVY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Comm. John Meeks opened the discussion on Opioid Law Suits. Atty. Brown then spoke regarding ongoing lawsuits and the possibility of Levy County joining with other counties against the pharmaceutical industry for health issues resulting from prescribed opioids. The lawsuits claim pharmaceutical companies were selling products to physicians claiming they had studies of these types of drugs indicating they were safe for long-term pain management knowing this was not so.

Comm. Rooks made a motion to allow Atty. Brown to move forward to seek an Attorney Firm to handle Levy County joining in with other State lawsuits as requested. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

## **MENDING FENCES, LLC & OCALA CONSULTING & PREVENTION, LLC**

Marsha Wheatley, Mending Fences, LLC Director of Operations and Jackie Gibson, Licensed Mental Health Counselor, Certified Addiction Professional, Clinical Director at Mending Fences, LLC, and owner of Ocala Consulting & Prevention, LLC spoke to the Board presenting a proposal for Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention Services in Levy County. Ms. Wheatley stated the OCP has provided drug court counseling services for Marion County Drug Court and with Mending Fences, LLC and they would like to provide services to an Alternate Drug Court Program here in Levy County.

Audience members who spoke regarding this item were: Renate Cannon and Jeff Hardison.

Sheriff McCallum commended the work they are doing with Drug Court and suggested Ms. Wheatley and Ms. Gibson meet with Bill Cervone at the Court Administrators office and with the Chief Judge as this is where initiation of this type of program would begin. He also suggested meeting with the Levy County Drug Prevention Coalition.

The Commissioners agreed this is a needed service and they would like to see it implemented here in Levy County.

## **LEVY COUNTY CITIZEN – CAROLOS AND YULIANA ROBLEDO**

Mr. Robledo spoke to the Board requesting approval to use part of the Yankeetown Beach for a variety of activities i.e., games, inflatables, kayaks for rent, snow-cones, movies, and an obstacle course. He stated he and his wife currently have a food truck for selling snow-cones and have set up at the boat ramp at Bird Creek occasionally. They would like to provide other activities for families, especially during the summer. Mrs. Robledo also spoke regarding vendors having their own insurance.

The Commissioners expressed concerns of liability, safety, parking and accessibility to restrooms and agreed this would not be something they could allow in this location. While they agreed Mr. Robledo has a good idea, they agreed it would work better in a different location in or near Yankeetown.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

### **COUNTY COORDINATOR**

Wilbur Dean requested Board approval of the Letter of Services between Levy County and Nabors, Giblin & Nickerson for updating the Annual Road and Maintenance Assessment Program for fiscal year 2018-2019.

Comm. Joyner made a motion to approve the Letter of Services between Levy County and Nabors, Giblin & Nickerson as requested. Second was made by Comm. Brooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

### **NON-AGENDA ITEM**

Mr. Dean requested Board approval to hear a non-agenda item regarding the union contracts.

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

Mr. Dean requested Board ratification of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between Levy County and the IAFF Local 4069, International Association of Firefighters, Levy County Professional Paramedics and Emergency Technicians Local.

Comm. Rooks made a motion to ratify the Collective Bargaining Agreement between Levy County and the IAFF Local 4069 as requested. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Dean requested Board ratification of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between Levy County and the Northeast Florida Public Employees Local 630, Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA).

Comm. Rock Meeks made a motion to ratify the Collective Bargaining Agreement between Levy County and the Northeast Florida Public Employees Local 630 as requested. Second was made by Comm. Brooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

Terry Witt questioned the amount of the pay raise. Mr. Dean answered all union eligible employees will receive a \$2,000 pay increase to their base pay for the next two (2) years. This increase will begin on the next pay for employees.

## **GRANTS DEPARTMENT**

Tisha Whitehurst, Grants Coordinator requested Board approval and authorization for the Chair to sign letter to U.S. Treasury Department accepting the Multi-Year Implementation Plan (MYIP) for expenditure for RESTORE Act Direct Component (Pot 1) funds and approving each activity in the MYIP after consideration of meaningful input from the public. The eight (8) projects in the MYIP are listed below:

1. Project ACE
2. Inner Marina Maintenance Dredging
3. WGP Research Equipment and Materials
4. Lower Withlacoochee River Environmental Study
5. Clam Trail Project
6. Cedar Key Wastewater Improvements
7. Cedar Key Aquarium at NCBS
8. Information 24/7 Kiosk

Comm. Joyner made a motion to approve the letter to the U.S. Treasury Department with the Chairman's signature as requested. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

David Peaton requested on behalf of John MacDonald, Director Board approval to award the project of conducting a State Homeland Security L-964 Training Course to Global 7 Environmental Health and Safety. Mr. Peaton stated this is a budgeted expense funded by State Homeland Security Training Funds. The quotes received are as follows:

- Global 7 Environmental Health and Safety   \$ 5,900
- Blue Skies Professional Services           \$ 9,380
- Megapod Networking, LLC                   \$10,462
- Wiland Choeta                                 \$12,007

Comm. Rooks made a motion to award the project of conducting a State Homeland Security L-964 Training Course to Global 7 Environmental Health and Safety as requested. Second was made by Joyner and the MOTION CARRIES.

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

- A. Mitch Harrell, Director requested Board approval and the Chairman's signature to send a notice to EMS Management & Consultants, Inc. to renew the Billing Services Agreement with them for a one-year term. This renewal will extend the term of the Agreement through April 30, 2019.

Comm. Rock Meeks made a motion to approve with the Chairman's signature the notice to EMS Management & Consultants, Inc. to renew the Billing Services Agreement as requested. Second was made by Comm. Rooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

- B. Chief Harrell requested Board approval to purchase two (2) new Type III Ambulance units for the total amount of \$356,442 plus applicable taxes, tag and title from Emergency Tactical Rescue Vehicles in Sanford, Florida, manufactured by American Emergency Vehicles. These vehicles are a planned purchase for the 2017-2018 budget year and the quoted price is in line with the State contract bids from the Florida Sheriff's Association Contract Bid #FSA16-VEF 12.0.

Comm. Rooks made a motion to approve the purchase of two (2) new Type III Ambulance units from Emergency Tactical Vehicles as requested. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

The following members in the audience spoke: Terry Witt, Renate Cannon, Katie Yanok,

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Linda Cooper commented on the county maintained roads in Levy County and questioned if it would help to contract some of the maintenance to an outside source.

Comm. John Meeks stated the county has a large number of dirt roads and it is difficult to maintain them all due to weather and individual road conditions. The cost of road maintenance is also an issue they have to work around.

## COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

**Comm. Rooks** made a motion to re-appoint Toni Collins to Seat 4 on the Board of Adjustments for the 2018-2021 term. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

**Comm. Brooks** stated Robert Philpot will be honored by Williston on Thursday evening at the Williston baseball field during the game against Bronson.

**Comm. Rock Meeks** commented on the Road issue stating there are many "C" roads in the county in need of some attention and would like to have staff look into this to see if there are any grants available for this purpose. The other Commissioners agreed and Comm. John Meeks stated the distribution of SCRAP and SCOP grant funds need to be looked into.

Comm. Rock Meeks stated CAAA baseball and softball will begin this Saturday at Strickland Park in Chiefland.

**Comm. John Meeks** opened discussion regarding concealed carry and the employees of Levy County. It was agreed by the Commissioners to ask employees to continue to follow concealed carry rules and regulations as the established for the State of Florida if they have their permit.

Chief Harrell spoke regarding complications which could arise with first responders carrying on the job. Discussion followed regarding the securing of a firearm if the Paramedics/EMT's responded to a gun-restricted building/facility. Chief Harrell stated a secure compartment could be designated in an ambulance for securing a firearm, if the Board indicated this would be acceptable.

Mr. Dean spoke of the cost of insurance and the liability of allowing employees to carry on the job.

Comm. John Meeks reminded everyone the Bloodmobile is located outside near the courthouse today if anyone was interested in donating blood.

Comm. John Meeks spoke of HB 33, which would make texting and driving a primary offense, stating it appeared this Bill would pass.

Comm. John Meeks announced there is a Pet Adoption Event scheduled for Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at the Chiefland Tractor Supply store.

Comm. John Meeks also reminded everyone the 3<sup>rd</sup> installment of the speaking engagements at the Cedar Key RV Resort on the Seminole Indian War will be on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting recessed at 11:54 A.M.

The meeting reconvened at 4:02 P.M.

**PUBLIC HEARING  
LEVY COUNTY BUILDING AND ZONING**

Bill Hammond, Development Director read into public record the title of Ordinance 2018-004; an Ordinance relating to Medical Marijuana; Adopting finding; Repealing Ordinance 2017-02 and Ordinance 2017-018 containing a moratorium on medical cannabis activities.

Comm. John Meeks asked if there was anyone in the audience wishing to speak for or against the item as presented.

Terry Witt questioned the States requirement for the licensed grower to also process and sell the product themselves. Atty. Brown gave further explanation of the process.

Sheriff McCallum also provided information explaining how the process of growing, processing and selling is to be done.

Comm. John Meeks then closed the Public Hearing and announced the next Public Hearing will be held on March 20<sup>th</sup> during the regular Board meeting.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COMMISSION, THE MEETING  
ADJOURNED AT 4:26 P.M.

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
LEVY COUNTY, FL

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Clerk of Court, Danny J. Shipp

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Chairman, John Meeks