

**REGULAR MEETING
LEVY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MARCH 31, 2020**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Levy County Commissioners was held on March 31, 2020 at 9:00 A.M. in the Meeting Room of the Levy County Annex Building 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 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.

AGENDA ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, MODIFICATIONS

Comm. Joyner stated he would like to add a question for the County Attorney which will not require action by the Board.

Comm. John Meeks made a motion to approve the agenda adding Comm. Joyner's request as the first item on the agenda. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

COMM. JOYNER

Comm. Joyner stated Governor DeSantis had signed an Executive Order allowing retired Law Enforcement officers in Florida to return to work, if they wished to do so. Comm. Joyner inquired of Atty. Brown the legality of his position as a County Commissioner, while at the same time returning to Law Enforcement.

Atty. Brown responded it would not be a conflict of interest, however, it would be a violation of dual office-holding, which is a constitutional provision. As of right now, this would violate dual office-holding, but she would look into it further to determine if there was a way this could be done.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

John MacDonald, Director gave a COVID-19 update to the Board, stating Levy County is following the guidelines established by the Governor's office. He stated some businesses are taking further actions to prevent the spread of this virus.

The Emergency Management's website (levydisaster.com) has updates posted as soon as they are made available and there is also a link for rumor control on the website. He encouraged the public to check this link if they have heard information and are not sure if it is true. David Peaton is working diligently to research and answer any questions asked by the public and to post this information on the website. Mr. MacDonald reported there are two (2) confirmed cases for Levy County at this time.

James Beck inquired how many individuals in Levy County had been tested. Mr. MacDonald responded there had been 86 individuals tested in Levy County.

Terry Witt inquired of the way in which the two (2) who had tested positive had contracted the virus. Mr. MacDonald responded this information has not been made available at this time as the investigation was not completed.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

Anne Bast Brown provided information on all State Executive Orders in the order they have been adopted. She stated these are all available on the Governor's website, flgov.com.

COUNTY COORDINATOR

Wilbur Dean

- A. Requesting Board approval of Emergency Order 2020-026 prohibiting gatherings of more than ten (10) people in Levy County during the declared State of Emergency.

Comm. John Meeks made a motion to approve Emergency Order 2020-026 as presented. Second was made by Comm. Joyner and the MOTION CARRIES.

- B. Requesting Board approval of Emergency Order 2020-027 closing certain County parks during the declared State of Emergency.

Clerk of Court, Danny Shipp requested clarification of gathering guidelines for an upcoming Tax Deed Sale. He stated if there are more people participating than the Board meeting room in the courthouse could safely hold, he could move the sale outdoors, weather permitting.

Atty. Brown stated since this is considered a government meeting, as long as he kept those participating in the sale at the 6' separation distance, there should be no problem with having the sale.

Matt Weldon stated all county boat ramps remain open including the #4 bridge and fishing pier located just outside of Cedar Key.

Sheriff McCallum informed there had been complaints of large gatherings of people at the boat ramp at the end of SR40 in Yankeetown, so adopting Emergency Order 2020-027 will help with this situation.

Mr. Dean and Mr. Weldon stated this boat ramp will soon be under construction for repairs and will be completely closed to the public beginning mid-April.

Mr. Weldon stated the big dock in Cedar Key had already been closed due to the closing of Cedar Key to non-residents and concerns of the submerged lands lease with the State. The dock would then re-open when Cedar Key re-opens.

Comm. Joyner made a motion to approve Emergency Order 2020-027 as presented. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Jacqueline Martin, Director

Presenting to the Board the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA or Act) leave and pay policies and return to work guidelines for confirmed and suspected COVID-19 event. She recommended the following list of employees to be excluded: Firefighters, Emergency Medical Technicians, Paramedics, and Emergency Management Personnel.

Chief Harrell expressed concerns of the exclusion of DPS personnel.

Audience members who spoke regarding this item were: Terry Witt, Barbara Locke.

Comm. Joyner made a motion to adopt the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA or Act) leave and pay policies and return to guidelines as presented. Second was made by Comm. Rooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

COVID-19 RELATED ISSUES

- A. Future meetings for Board of County Commissioners, Planning & Zoning, and Board of Adjustments. Direction for Attorney on establishing rules of meetings moving forward.

Comm. Brooks asked Atty. Brown to explain State requirements and restrictions for meetings during the COVID-19 restrictions.

Atty. Brown spoke to the Board explaining how meetings can still take place while remaining in compliance of restrictions.

The Commissioners agreed to continue holding meetings as today in the Annex meeting room/auditorium. Those who do not wish to come in may participate by submitting public input by email to the Board office prior to the meeting and they may listen by dialing in to the established phone line set up for this purpose.

Comm. John Meeks made a motion to establish the rules for the Planning & Zoning and Board of Adjustments meetings as explained by Atty. Brown, excluding the Board of County Commissioners meetings and authorizing the Chairman to approve. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

- B. Current safety procedures of all County Departments, Constitutional Officers, UF/IFAS, and Soil & Water Office.

Comm. Brooks read aloud steps being taken by county offices with regard to public access, cleaning/disinfecting of work spaces and other measures taken in an effort to prevent/slow the spread of COVID-19.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Comm. Joyner reminded everyone to call to check on elderly residents.

Comm. John Meeks reported of various meeting cancellations and of the Wild Hog Canoe/Kayak Race cancellation. He commended the schools for continuing to teach in the modified version they have been adjusting to.

Comm. Brooks thanked everyone for their continued efforts and adjustments with regard to the changes made due to the COVID-19 virus.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COMMISSION, THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:55 A.M.

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEVY COUNTY, FL

Clerk of Court, Danny J. Shipp

Chairman, Matt Brooks