

**SPECIAL MEETING  
LEVY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
AUGUST 17, 2017**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Levy County Commissioners was held on August 17, 2017 at 9:00 A.M. in the Levy County Board of County Commissioners meeting room with the following Commissioners present:

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

Also present were:

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

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.

**COUNTY COORDINATOR**

Wilbur Dean spoke to the Board providing background information regarding the decision made at the July 18<sup>th</sup> meeting regarding employee group health insurance and wages. At this meeting, the Board voted to allocate a maximum of \$9,512 per employee for health insurance benefits, with each employee to bear any additional costs in premiums for the health insurance plan(s) desired by the employee, whether those additional costs were for employee-only coverage or dependent coverage. As a part of this decision, the Board voted to provide a “tiered salary increase” to offset the increased cost to employees for their health insurance premiums. A grievance was then filed by the IAFF Local #4069, citing alleged violation of various provisions of the County’s Collective Bargaining Agreement with IAFF Local #4069 objecting the Board’s July 18<sup>th</sup> decision. County staff and legal counsel determined it would be in the best interest of the BOCC and the County to present options for changes to this decision, in order to avoid potential arbitration and litigation costs and to more fully comply with the health insurance provisions of the collective bargaining agreements with IAFF Local #4069 and Northeast Florida Public Employee’s LIUMA AFL/CIO Local #630.

Mr. Dean presented staff’s recommendation for changes to the Board’s July 18<sup>th</sup> decision regarding employee group health insurance and wages, reading options 1, 2 and 3 into public record, recommending the Board exercise option 2. The 3 options are listed below:

**Option 1**

Rescind decision made at the July 18, 2017 meeting and do the following regarding employee group health insurance:

- A. The County will pay the full amount of the premium attributable to coverage for employee only for each employee electing to use the County’s employee group health insurance, regardless of which County-provided health insurance plan is selected by the employee, and which includes the increase in premiums for the 2017-2018 year; and
- B. The County will continue to provide a portion of the premiums for the dependent coverage for eligible dependents of employees at the same levels as provided by the County for the 2016-2017 fiscal year, with the increase in premiums for the 2017-2018 year to be borne by the applicable employee; and
- C. Wage increase for the 2017-2018 fiscal year will be subject to negotiations.

**Option 2**

Rescind decision made at the July 18, 2017 meeting and do the following regarding employee group health insurance:

- A. The County will pay the full amount of the premium attributable to coverage for employee only for each employee electing to use the County’s employee group health insurance, regardless of which County-provided health insurance plan is selected by the employee, and which includes the increase in premiums for the 2017-2018 year; and

- B. Each employee electing to use the dependent coverage options for eligible dependents in the County’s employee group health insurance will pay the full amount of the premium attributable to coverage for the employee’s eligible dependents; and
- C. Wage increase for the 2017-2018 fiscal year will be subject to negotiations.

**Option 3**

Take no vote and retain the July 18, 2017 decision.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jeremiah Tattersal, spoke to the Board on behalf of the Florida AFL-CIO encouraging them to go the bargaining table before making a decision. He asked the Board to completely remove option 3 from consideration.

Employees who spoke to the Board were: Jimmy Jones, Jacob Kwalwasser, Katie Yanok, Dean Shouse and Harry Sparks. All encouraged the Board to reconsider their previous decision.

Other members of the audience which spoke to the Board regarding this issue were: Linda Cooper, Jeff Hardison, Terry Witt, Tax Collector, Linda Fugate and Property Appraiser, Oz Barker.

Mr. Barker stated the Affordable Care Act is the force driving up the costs of insurance and everyone has an opportunity to have their concerns heard by Senator Bill Nelson on August 29<sup>th</sup> at the Livestock Pavillion in Fanning Springs.

Mr. Dean stated all of the elected officials have decided to implement the Board’s insurance plan and tier increase approved on July 18<sup>th</sup>, with the exception of the Sheriff’s Department.

Comm. Joyner made a motion to approve Option 2 as presented. Second was made by Comm. Brooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COMMISSION, THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:18 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, John Meeks