

**REGULAR MEETING
LEVY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SEPTEMBER 19, 2017**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Levy County Commissioners was held on September 19, 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. Matt Brooks
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 John Meeks called the Meeting to order at 9:04 A.M. Comm. Joyner gave the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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.

CHECK NUMBER	128559-128642
FUND	AMOUNT
GENERAL REVENUE	60,108.64
ROAD	46,978.42
MOSQUITO CONTROL	81.52
TRANSPORTATION	3,520.69
COURT FACILITIES	15.00
EMS	62,090.85
FIRE	1,812.83
TOURIST DEVELOPMENT	653.91
DRUG TASK FORCE	5,251.21
ADD COURT COSTS	702.98
IMPACT FEES - PARKS	285.00
LANDFILL	3,241.02
TOTAL	\$ 184,742.07

PUBLIC COMMENT

Renate Cannon spoke to the Board requesting clarification of the evacuation order given ahead of Hurricane Irma.

Comm. John Meeks explained the mandatory evacuation order had been issued was due to emergency responders not being able to go out if the mph of the winds were to reach a certain level. If residents felt safer in their homes than in a shelter, they were not forced to leave. If residents did not feel safe in their homes, shelters were available.

John MacDonald also spoke regarding shelters and their availability.

Mrs. Cannon asked about trees down blocking her driveway and if the Road Department should be responsible for their removal.

Comm. John Meeks answered the Road Department was responsible for removing trees on County roads only, but if it was touching a power line, they could not touch it until power company crews had been on the scene to make it safe. The Road department could not remove trees on a driveway not county maintained.

Terry Witt also questioned the availability of shelters for residents of Cedar Key.

Comm. John Meeks stated it would not have been safe to open a shelter in Cedar Key and those residents who evacuated were encouraged to go to the shelters available in Bronson, Williston or Chiefland.

COLLEGE OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Dr. James D. Henningsen, President of College of Central Florida requested Board approval of Proclamation 2017-055; a Proclamation by the Board of County Commissioners, Levy County, Florida recognizing the 60th Anniversary of the College of Central Florida. He also reported the newly opened College of Central Florida, Chiefland campus opened for classes on Monday.

Comm. Rock Meeks made a motion to approve Proclamation 2017-055 as presented. Second was made by Comm. Rooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

BUILDING & ZONING – PUBLIC HEARING

Atty. Brown administered swearing in procedure of audience members who wished to speak for or against the Petition being presented.

Comm. John Meeks asked if any of the Commissioners had any ex parte communication regarding this item. ¹Comm. Rooks, ²Comm. Joyner and ³Comm. John Meeks all declared ex-parte communication regarding this item. Comm. Rock Meeks stated he has a voting conflict and will abstain from voting.

Bill Hammond presented an Order to Approve or Deny SE 02-17, Guardian Angels Medical Service Dogs, Inc. The Guardian Angels Medical Service Dogs, Inc. is petitioning the Board for a Special Exception to allow a dog kennel (dog training facility) on a parcel of land located at 650 NE 200th Avenue, Williston Florida. The parcel of land is 68.56 acres, more or less and is located within an “ARR” Agriculture/Rural Residential Zone.

Audience members speaking for the petition were: Clay Sweger, Mary Jo Branch, Carol Borden, Chris Borden.

Those in the audience asking questions were: Renate Cannon and Linda Cooper.

Comm. Rooks questioned the number of dogs which would be housed at the facility. Mary Jo Branch answered the number of dogs at a given time could vary due to puppies born and dogs leaving due to pairing with their recipients. Mrs. Borden also stated there are 100 dog runs, 20 of which are quarantine runs and not used on a regular basis.

Comm. Joyner made a motion to approve the Order to Approve SE 02-17 as presented. Second was made by Comm. Brooks and the MOTION CARRIES. Comm. Rooks voted NO.

LEVY COUNTY CLERK OF COURT – FINANCE

Jared Blanton requested Board approval for the use of \$45,000 of Court Innovations Money (BOCC Fund 130, Cost Center 0203) to fund the implementation costs for a new Court Management Software. There are six (6) counties in the Eighth Judicial Circuit, and four (4) of those counties currently use the same court software (Clericus) and the 5th county (Alachua) is currently in the implementation process with Clericus. The users of the court data are faced with various efficiency and compatibility hurdles when using differing software setups county-to-county across the Circuit. The Clericus program, having been developed and managed in-state, is more responsive to local needs unique to our environment according to Mr. Silverman, Court Administrator.

¹ Ex-parte, Comm. Rooks

² Ex-parte, Comm. Joyner

³ Comm. John Meeks

Deanna Dobbins also spoke to the Board further explaining the Clericus software program and how it is used by the Clerk's and Judges for tracking cases.

Comm. Joyner made a motion to approve the use of funds from Court Innovations Money for new Court Management software as requested. Second was made by Comm. Brooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

A. John MacDonald requested the Board ratify Emergency Declaration 2017-056; Hurricane Irma Local State of Emergency Declaration.

Comm. Rock Meeks made a motion to ratify Emergency Declaration 2017-056 as requested. Second was made by Comm. Rooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

B. Mr. MacDonald requested the Board ratify Emergency Declaration 2017-057; the Extension of Hurricane Irma Local State of Emergency Declaration.

Comm. Rock Meeks made a motion to ratify Emergency Declaration 2017-057 as requested. Second was made by Comm. Rooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

LIBRARY

Jeanine Turner requested Board approval and signature of State Aid Agreement for fiscal year 2017-2018.

Comm. Rooks made a motion to approve the Chairman's signature and submittal of the State Aid Agreement for fiscal year 2017-2018.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Wilbur Dean requested on behalf of Alice LaLonde Board approval of Resolution 2017-053, scheduling a Public Hearing on Tuesday, October 17, 2017 at 9:00 A.M. for the closure of portions of roadways located in Midway Heights Subdivision requested by petitioners Jeffery E. Blittersdorf and Melody A. Blittersdorf, and Edward C. Barbo and Candace K. Barbo.

Comm. Brooks made a motion to approve Resolution 2017-053 as requested. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

UF/IFAS EXTENSION, LEVY COUNTY 4-H

Genevieve Mendoza requested Board approval of Proclamation 2017-052 recognizing the week of October 1-7, 2017 as National 4-H Week.

Comm. Brooks made a motion to approve Proclamation 2017-052 as requested. Second was made by Comm. Rooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

Comm. Rock Meeks inquired of the bees kept at the Ag. Center since the storm. Ms. Mendoza answered they were secured before the storm and have been checked since. She reported there have been volunteers checking on them and they are doing well.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Chief Mitch Harrell requested Board approval and the Chairman's signature on the Agreement between the Town of Inglis and Levy County. This will allow the County to establish an EMS station at the existing Fire station house in town under a lease in the amount of \$11,000 per year for an initial term of 4 years.

Comm. Rooks made a motion to approve the Agreement with the Chairman's signature between the Town of Inglis and Levy County as requested. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

LEVY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Barbara Locke requested Board approval of the Contract between the Board of County Commissioners and the Levy County Health Department.

Comm. Rooks made a motion to approve the Contract between the Board of County Commissioners and the Levy County Health Department as requested. Second was made by Comm. Joyner and the MOTION CARRIES.

NON-AGENDA ITEM

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

Mr. Dean requested a date to schedule a Shade Meeting with the Labor Attorney, Wayne Helsby and stated several dates which were suggested. The date of Monday September 25th was agreed upon and the time was set for 3:00 P.M. The meeting will be held at the EOC conference room.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Linda Cooper asked if the employees were compensated for the time in which the county government offices were without power after the storm.

Comm. John Meeks answered the Board employees were given administrative leave for Monday and for Tuesday through Thursday they were given the option to use any available Comp time or leave time, if available. The employees could also come in to work and go to wherever they were needed if their usual job could not be done.

Ed Jennings stated he was not aware of this condition and he told all of his employees to stay home. He was now disappointed some of his employees would now have to take leave without pay.

Comm. John Meeks stated there was a policy adopted on Wednesday before the storm which outlined the options employees could take for pay compensation.

Other members speaking regarding this topic were: Sallie Collins, Jeff Hardison, Linda Cooper, Dana Sheffield and Terry Witt.

Mayor Merritt stated the South Levy Marketplace will take place this weekend. Debris pickup will be this week. She stated on October 28th there will be 3 events taking place: the 2nd annual South Levy Marketplace, the Women's Club Chili Cook-off, and the Trunk of Treats will be later that evening.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Comm. Joyner recognized Jimmy Jones, Maintenance Director and his staff for their hard work before, during and after Hurricane Irma to keep the courthouse and all county buildings protected from storm damage.

Comm. Joyner shared information about Brad Etheridge and his family had cooked for the area electrical employees, and law enforcement employees who were working after the storm.

Comm. Rooks thanked those who kept order at the gas stations during the days after the storm and for the linemen who worked diligently to restore power. She thanked those who worked before, during and after at the EOC.

Comm. Brooks thanked everyone who worked at the EOC during and after the storm. Comm. Brooks announced the Williston Peanut Festival will be on Saturday, October 7th beginning with the Rotary Clubs Purple Pinkie Peanut Run at 8:00 A.M. U-Pick Lane near Williston will be open every weekend during October. He also stated the Elephant Appreciation event will be this weekend at Two Tails Ranch near Williston.

Comm. Rock Meeks stated he was thankful for the storm not coming through the Levy County area as severe as it was originally predicted. He thanked those who came together at the EOC and commended them for their decisions which had been made. He also extended thanks to the School Board employees who worked at the shelters making them comfortable for those who had to evacuate their homes during the storm.

Comm. John Meeks also thanked all who worked in the shelters, at the EOC and the law enforcement, first responders and linemen who had worked after the storm. He offered a phone number and website for FEMA for individuals seeking assistance with repairs due to Hurricane Irma.

Comm. John Meeks announced there will be a Grand Opening of the Nature Coast Research Station in Cedar Key on September 23rd.

Comm. John Meeks extended thanks to the Bronson Methodist church for cooking for law enforcement and linemen out working after the storm.

Mr. Dean stated there is an after action review meeting schedule for 2:00 P.M. at the EOC to discuss Hurricane Irma.

The meeting recessed at 12:22 P.M.

The meeting reconvened at 5:04 P.M.

PUBLIC HEARING

- A. Jared Blanton requested Board approval of Resolution 2017-058 Adopting the Final Millage Rate of 9.0000 for the General Fund, which is higher than the rolled back rate of 8.7297.

Comm. John Meeks asked if anyone in the audience would like to speak for or against the item presented. There was none.

Comm. Rock Meeks made a motion to approve Resolution 2017-058 as requested. Second was made by Comm. Brooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

- B. Mr. Blanton requested Board approval of Resolution 2017-059 adopting the Final Budget for fiscal year 2017-2018 in the amount of \$68,225,667.00.

Comm. John Meeks asked if anyone in the audience would like to speak for or against the item presented. There was none.

Comm. Rock Meeks made a motion to approve Resolution 2017-059 as requested. Second was made by Comm. Joyner and the MOTION CARRIES.

- C. Mr. Blanton requested Board approval of Resolution 2017-048; Annual Rate for Fire Protection Services.

Comm. John Meeks asked if anyone in the audience would like to speak for or against the item presented. There was none.

Comm. Joyner made a motion to approve Resolution 2017-048 as requested. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

- D. Mr. Blanton requested Board approval of Resolution 2017-049; Annual Rate for EMS Tax Assessments.

Comm. John Meeks asked if anyone in the audience would like to speak for or against the item presented. There was none.

Comm. Rock Meeks made a motion to approve Resolution 2017-049 as requested. Second was made by Comm. Joyner and the MOTION CARRIES.

E. Mr. Blanton requested Board approval of Resolution 2017-050; Annual Rate for Solid Waste Assessments.

Comm. John Meeks asked if anyone in the audience would like to speak for or against the item presented. There was none.

Comm. Rock Meeks made a motion to approve Resolution 2017-050 as requested. Second was made by Comm. Brooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

F. Requesting Board approval of Resolution 2017-051; Annual Rate for Roadway Maintenance Service Assessments.

Comm. John Meeks asked if anyone in the audience would like to speak for or against the item presented. There was none.

Comm. Joyner made a motion to approve Resolution 2017-051 as requested. Second was made by Comm. Brooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COMMISSION, THE MEETING
ADJOURNED AT 5:19 P.M.

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEVY COUNTY, FL

Clerk of Court, Danny J. Shipp

Chairman, John Meeks