

**REGULAR MEETING  
LEVY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MAY 2, 2017**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Levy County Commissioners was held on May 2, 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. Brooks 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. Joyner and the MOTION CARRIES.

<b>CHECK NUMBER</b>	<b>127202-127360</b>
<b>FUND</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
GENERAL REVENUE	1,254,535.20
ROAD	101,758.14
SHIP	334.70
TRANSPORTATION	912.35
911	13,563.83
COURT FACILITIES	45.00
EMS	19,755.13
FIRE	47,260.09
TOURIST DEVELOPMENT	18,597.69
UTILITIES	1,837.55
ADD COURT COSTS	2,225.46
LANDFILL	20,719.06
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,481,544.20</b>
<b>EFT PAYMENT</b>	<b>\$ 17,540.50</b>

**MINUTES**

The minutes for the Regular Board Meeting held on April 4, 2017 were presented for Board approval.

Comm. Joyner made a motion to approve the minutes for the Regular Board Meeting held on April 4, 2017 as presented. Second was made by Comm. Brooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

**PUBLIC HEARING  
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

Bill Hammond, Development Director

Comm. John Meeks asked if any of the Commissioners had any ex parte communication regarding Preliminary Plat PP 01-17, Boyer's Lake.

Comm. Joyner, Comm. Rooks, Comm. John Meeks, and Comm. Brooks all stated they had ex-parte communication regarding this item.

Atty. Brown administered swearing in procedure of audience members wishing to speak for or against the item to be presented.

- A. Mr. Hammond requested Board approval of Preliminary Plat PP 01-17, Boyer's Lake, Inc., a residential subdivision consisting of eight (8) 10 acre lots. Mr. Hammond stated the Planning Boards recommendation is for approval.

Comm. John Meeks asked if there was anyone in the audience wishing to speak for or against the Preliminary Plat. Members of the audience who spoke were:

Sallie Ann Collins expressed concern for this area being developed as it is a low lying area prone to flooding. Toni Collins asked for the vote count from the Planning Commission meeting.

Comm. John Meeks answered the vote was 3-0, in favor.

Linda Cooper asked if there would be septic tank restrictions in this area?

Mr. Hammond answered this is a requirement which would be determined by the Health Department.

Questions were asked by the Commissioners concerning road maintenance within the subdivision.

Mr. Hammond and Mrs. LaLonde answered the roads within the subdivision would be the responsibility of the homeowners as these are not county dedicated roads.

Comm. Joyner made a motion to approve Preliminary Plat PP 01-17, Boyer's Lake. Second was made by Comm. Brooks and the MOTION CARRIES. Comm. Rooks voted NO.

- B. Mr. Hammond requested Board approval of Order to Approve SE 16-03, Eli and Meghann Jerrels for a private cemetery.

J. Meeks asked if any of the Commissioners had any ex-parte communication regarding SE 16-03 for a private cemetery.

Comm. John Meeks and Comm. Rock Meeks both stated they had ex-parte communication regarding this item.

Atty. Brown administered swearing in procedure of audience members wishing to speak for or against the item to be presented.

Comm. John Meeks asked if there was anyone in the audience wishing to speak for or against the Special Exception.

Toni Collins asked if perpetual maintenance would be required?

Atty. Brown answered a Perpetual Maintenance Agreement is listed in the Conditions of Approval.

Petitioner, Eli Jerrels stated they will also be following requirements set by State Statute.

Comm. Joyner made a motion to adopt the Order to Approve for SE 16-03 as presented. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

## **CONSTITUTIONAL AND COURT FACILITIES COMMITTEE**

Paul Silverman, Eighth Judicial Circuit requested Board approval of recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners from the Levy County Constitutional and Court Facilities Committee. This committee consists of: the Chief Judge, Board of County Commissioners Chairman, Clerk of Court, Tax Collector, Property Appraiser, Supervisor of Elections, Public Defender and State Attorney. Mr. Silverman stated it is the recommendation to focus more on security than additional space and to have an architect prepare a design to renovate the existing building using a portion of the \$1.3 million available for courthouse improvement, construction and architect expense.

Those in the audience speaking regarding this item were: Renate Cannon, Toni Collins and Robert Jordan.

Toni Collins also informed the Board she has noticed the gate behind the courthouse at the Sally Port is being left open.

The Board members as well as Sheriff McCallum agreed this gate is only to be unlocked when inmates are being transported to and from the courtrooms and this lock will need to be changed.

Sheriff McCallum then informed the Commissioners of a law being passed allowing firearms to be brought into the courthouse by individuals with a concealed carry permit. However, firearms will not be allowed in the courtrooms and will need to be surrendered at the security station prior to entering so there will be a need for a secure locker to store them. Sheriff McCallum stated the bailiff's station may also need to be moved to the court side of the building as it is the responsibility of the Sheriff's Department to provide security to the Judges, not the entire courthouse.

Comm. Joyner made a motion to accept the suggestion to allow architects to provide bids for preparation of renovation plans as stated by Mr. Silverman. The RFP will include the design and estimated costs for the project. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

### **DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

Bill Hammond, Director

Request direction from the Board on scheduling of a Public Hearing for Guardian Angels.

This item is TABLED and will be rescheduled at a later date.

### **PARKS AND RECREATION**

Matt Weldon, Director requested Board approval for the purchase of a security camera system at Blue Springs Park. Mr. Weldon stated he obtained a quote from Security Systems of North Central Florida, Inc. as they are the provider for many of the county departments. The amount of \$2,760 was quoted for the entire system including 8 cameras.

Comm. Joyner made a motion to approve the purchase of a security system for Blue Springs Park from Security Systems of North Central Florida, Inc. as requested. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES. Comm. John Meeks voted NO.

Mr. Weldon stated he had been contacted regarding concerns of safety due to vehicles parking and exiting at an area on CR326 to access part of the Wekiva to swim in the river. This is not an area designated or maintained by the county for swimming. The Road Department has been contacted and will be fencing the area.

**GRANTS**

- A. Tisha Whitehurst requested Board approval of the Work Order for Tetra Tech, Inc. in the amount of \$24,930 for preparation of a Multi-Year Implementation Plan for projects which will utilize Pot #1 money allocated to the County through the RESTORE Act.

Comm. Joyner made a motion to approve the Work Order for Tetra Tech, Inc. as presented. Second was made by Comm. Rooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

- B. Mrs. Whitehurst requested Board approval for RESTORE Act Pot #3 projects for the SEP (State Expenditure Plan) as listed below:
  - Project 1: South Levy and Suwannee River Septic to Sewer Conversion
  - Project 2: Oyster Reef Restoration in the Gulf of Mexico
  - Project 3: Waccasassa Fishing Club and additional property land acquisition

Comm. Rooks made a motion to approve the RESTORE Act Pot #3 projects as presented. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

- A. John MacDonald, Director requested ratification by the Board for Emergency Declaration 2017-018 for a Local State of Emergency.

Comm. Rooks made a motion to approve Emergency Declaration 2017-018 as presented. Second was made by Comm. Brooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

- B. Mr. MacDonald requested ratification by the Board for Emergency Order 2017-019, an Emergency Order regarding open burning during the declared State of Emergency.

Comm. Rock Meeks made a motion to approve Emergency Order 2017-019 as presented. Second was made by Comm. Joyner and the MOTION CARRIES.

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

- A. Mitch Harrell, Public Safety Director requested Board approval to apply for the Florida Forest Service Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant. If awarded, this 50/50 Grant will be used to purchase hose from NAFECO in the amount of \$14,817.50. The county’s portion of \$7,435 is a budgeted expense for FY 2016/2017.

Comm. Rock Meeks made a motion to approve the Florida Forest Service Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant Application as requested. Second was made by Comm. Joyner and the MOTION CARRIES.

- B. Chief Harrell requested Board approval to purchase the following fire equipment:

- 1 set of Extrication Tools from Ten-8 Equipment \$20,525.44
- 4 MSA SCBAS’s with bottles from Ten-8 Equipment \$22,873.00
- 2 SCBA Containment Fill Stations from Channel-Innovation \$ 9,800.00  
SCBA (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus)

Chief Harrell stated the items to be purchased are budgeted for FY 2016/2017.

Comm. Joyner made a motion to approve the purchase of equipment as listed above. Second was made by Comm. Brooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

- C. Chief Harrell requested Board approval to purchase 1 EMD/EFD License with Annual Maintenance and Service Plan from Priority Dispatch in the amount of \$9,900 which is budgeted for FY 2016/2017. With this additional license, Dispatch will be able to have another station to provide EMD and EFD certified dispatching from.

Comm. Rooks made a motion to approve the purchase of 1 EMD/EFD License with Annual Maintenance and Service Plan from Priority Dispatch as requested. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

## **ROAD DEPARTMENT**

- A. Alice LaLonde, Office Manager requested Board approval to use the vendor, Austin Powder to blast at Gulf Hammock pit. Mrs. LaLonde stated Austin Powder was the only company to bid and the price quoted was \$63,611.04 for 250 holes.

Comm. Joyner made a motion to approve using the vendor Austin Powder for blasting at the Gulf Hammock pit as requested. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

- B. Mrs. LaLonde requested Board approval to purchase four (4) Caterpillar 120M motor graders from Ring Power on 5-year lease program.

- The price for 1 Caterpillar Mid-Mount Cross Slope (Finish Grader) is \$222,999.00. The financed amount is (5) yearly payments of \$47,452.76.
- The price for 3 Caterpillar Mid-Mount with Scarifier Graders is \$215,833.00 each for a total of \$647,499.00. The financed amount is (5) yearly payments of \$137,783.64.

Atty. Brown expressed concerns of there being no contract to sign prior to the authorization by the Board to purchase the graders.

John Duncan, representative from Caterpillar spoke to the Board stating the prices quoted would be valid until October. The Lease Agreements would be provided when the graders are delivered.

Comm. Rooks made a motion to authorize the ordering of the four (4) graders as stated above and to authorize the Chairman to sign the Lease Agreements. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Linda Cooper commented on the Guardian Angels item being Tabled and asked when it would be placed back on the Agenda.

Comm. John Meeks answered the petitioners requested the item be placed on the Agenda at a later as they would be out of town for an extended period of time.

Sheriff McCallum reported the Crab Fest in Williston went smoothly this past weekend with no major incidents. He expressed gratitude for the mutual aid from neighboring law enforcement agencies which assisted with the event.

Toni Collins questioned if the Crab Fest in Williston was required to obtain a Special Event Permit.

Comm. John Meeks and Sheriff McCallum answered no permit could be issued as there was no one willing to take responsibility for the event.

**COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

Comm. Joyner reported:

- The Trail Ride for Wounded Warriors held this past weekend was a success and had over 30 participants.
- The Wild Hog Canoe Race a success with a record number of participants. The amount raised was \$22,000 which will be given to LARC.
- The Ranch Rodeo will be held May 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> in Williston.

Comm. Rooks reported:

- She attended the Wild Hog Canoe Race
- The Chiefland Rodeo was a success this past weekend.
- Visited several of the Libraries in the County and participated in the “rock painting” project.
- Attended the fundraiser for the Children’s Table and birthday celebration for Bill Brown.

Comm. Brooks reported:

- There will be gathering for the National Day of Prayer in Williston at 12:00 P.M. at the Heritage Park Pavilion.
- This weekend is the “Blues Fest” event at the Red White and Blues, Blueberry Farm this weekend near Bronson.
- The date for the Williston FFA Clay Shoot.
- There will be a Public Records Request Seminar in Williston on May 4<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. in the Williston City Council Room.

Comm. Rock Meeks reported:

- CAAA youth baseball and softball was nearing the end of its season.
- The Ellzey Church Homecoming is this Sunday.
- He attended a FWC meeting recently and reported there will be no bear hunting in 2017 in Florida.

Comm. John Meeks reported:

- New Homestead Tax Exemption guidelines could possibly pass in Legislation which could drastically change the amounts assessed on property.
- The Bronson Blueberry Festival begins with the Pageant this weekend followed by the Festival on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>.
- The Chiefland Rotary Fishing Tournament will be on May 20<sup>th</sup>.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COMMISSION, THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:45 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