

**REGULAR MEETING  
LEVY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
JANUARY 9, 2018**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Levy County Commissioners was held on January 9, 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  
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.

**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.

<b>CHECK NUMBER</b>	<b>129545-129686</b>
<b>FUND</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
GENERAL REVENUE	1,867,436.62
ROAD	305,026.37
MOSQUITO CONTROL	30.37
TRANSPORTATION	2,578.22
911	14,596.00
COURT FACILITIES	3,379.88
MISC GRANTS	1,990.88
EMS	12,626.40
FIRE	4,817.76
TOURIST DEVELOPMENT	5,131.50
UTILITIES	54.44
RESTORE ACT	680.90
LANDFILL	4,978.81
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 2,223,328.15</b>
 <b>EFT/ACH PAYMENT</b>	 <b>\$ 550,170.47</b>

**MINUTES**

The minutes for the Regular Board meeting held on November 21, 2017 were presented for Board approval.

Comm. Brooks made a motion to approve the minutes from the Regular Board meeting held on November 21, 2017 as presented. Second was made by Comm. Joyner and the MOTION CARRIES.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Yankeetown Mayor, Drinda Merritt spoke to the Board regarding the development of a “Whitewater Kayak Venue” near the Barge Canal and provided a concept drawing. Mayor Merritt stated an economic Impact Study will be done in April by UCF, and the \$30,000 fee has already been raised by various sources. Besides a Whitewater Kayak Venue, there are plans to include a zip line, mountain biking trail, a disc golf course, a dog park, and hiking trails. There are also plans to connect the bike trail to the existing bike trail in Dunnellon, which will connect many of the other bike trails in Florida. The tourism created by this attraction could have a great economic impact on North Citrus County, West Marion County and South Levy County.

Audience members who spoke were: Toni Collins, Terry Witt and Helen Cialella.

## **BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Comm. John Meeks presented Plaques of Recognition on the retirement of John Partain, Department of Public Safety and Felipe McElroy from the Solid Waste Department. Both were thanked by all Commissioners for their years of dedicated service.

## **PLANNING DEPARTMENT – PUBLIC HEARING**

Shenley Neely requested Board approval of Ordinance 2018-002 to amend the Schedule of Capital Improvements for Levy County for years 2017-2018 through 2021-2022 and read the Ordinance title into public record.

Comm. Joyner made a motion to approve Ordinance 2018-002 as requested. Second was made by Comm. Rooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

## **MERIDIAN BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE**

Carolyn McClain, Senior Vice President presented on behalf of Leah Vail Compton, VP Forensic Services the Criminal Justice Mental Health Substance Abuse (CJMHS) grant with details regarding the grant committee, grant match, roles and responsibilities of Levy County Board of County Commissioners, roles and responsibilities of Meridian, forensic training and any other discussion needed to complete the CJMHS grant application for Levy County. Ms. McClain explained the Planning Grant in the amount of \$100,000 itself does not provide direct services, however, it does open the door for additional state and federal money because there would be solid data which could be used to show need and to target intervention efforts. Levy County would be responsible for half of this amount by in-kind match. The in-kind value consists of office space and time of the Planning Commission.

Audience members speaking regarding this item were: Alachua County Commissioner-Robert Hutchinson, Linda Cooper, Robert Lowyns, Terry Witt, Toni Collins, Helen Cialella, Renate Cannon, Bridgett Smith.

Comm. Joyner made a motion to approve preparation of a letter of support by Atty. Brown as requested as well as a letter to the State Legislature of the concerns of the rising mental health issue among those arrested. Second was made by Comm. Rooks and the MOTION CARRIES. Comm. Brooks voted NO.

## **LEVY COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE**

Mike West requested Board approval and the Chairman’s signature on the Akimeka Statement of Work and Addendum. Approval of the Statement of Work and Addendum are the first step in the GIS Refresh and Upgrade Project which is paid for by a grant from the State E911 Board.

Comm. Joyner made a motion to approve the Akimeka Statement of Work and Addendum with the Chairman’s signature as requested. Second was made by Comm. Rooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

## **HWY 40 BIRD CREEK BOAT RAMP PROJECT/WACCASASSA MARINA**

Jack Schofield spoke to the Board regarding the Highway 40 Bird Creek Boat Ramp Project/Waccasassa Marina purchase. He questioned if this would be cost effective for the county.

Comm. John Meeks addressed Mr. Schofield's concerns indicating this would re-open the boat ramp which had been closed since it was purchased by a private individual. There would also be a number of RV hook-ups available for public use.

### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

#### **COUNTY COORDINATOR**

Wilbur Dean presented a proposal to the Board for pay increases for all employee's not covered by one of the collective bargaining agreements. The proposed increase will be in their base pay of \$1,600/\$0.77 per hour. Mr. Dean stated this pay increase is not retro-active. The 48 employees to benefit from this increase would be those county employees not covered by either the IAFF or the LUNA 630.

Toni Collins questioned if this increase would apply to only administrative staff and Mr. Dean responded, yes, this would be for office staff and administrative staff having no union representation and who are at-will employees. Mrs. Collins asked if those employees eligible for union membership, whether a member or not, would be excluded from this raise. Mr. Dean answered, yes.

Comm. John Meeks stated those employees which would be affected by this are those not eligible for union membership and not represented by a union. Upon ratification of the union contracts, the remainder of the employees would then be eligible for whatever increase is agreed upon.

Linda Cooper questioned why the union negotiation process was taking so long.

Mr. Dean answered it is a lengthy process and the county's Labor Attorney, Wayne Helsby has been working to negotiate with the unions to come to an agreement.

Sallie Ann Collins expressed concerns of the Board approving this increase before coming to an agreement with the unions.

Katy Yanok gave information as to why there has been no agreement achieved with the unions at this time.

Comm. Joyner made a motion to approve the proposed increase as stated by Mr. Dean. Second was made by Comm. Brooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

### **PROPERTY APPRAISER**

Property Appraiser, Osborn Barker presented an overview of the Department of Revenue Bi-Annual audit of the Appraiser's office and gave some county specific tax roll statistics.

### **TRANSIT DEPARTMENT**

Connie Conley, Director requested Board approval of the Medical Waiver Services Agreement providing transportation for the Agency for Persons with Disabilities and authorization for the Director of Transportation to sign the agreement. This agreement is effective from December 12, 2017 to November 30, 2018.

Comm. Rock Meeks made a motion to approve the Medical Waiver Services Agreement and authorized the Director of Transportation to sign the agreement as requested. Second was made by Comm. Brooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

## MOSQUITO CONTROL

- A. Matt Weldon, Director requested Board approval to amend the State of Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services Mosquito Control contract for 2017-18 due to an increase of available funds for the Mosquito Program in the amount of \$927.64.

Comm. Rock Meeks made a motion to approve the Mosquito Control contract amendment as requested. Second was made by Comm. Brooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

- B. Mr. Weldon requested Board approval of Resolution 2018-001 for the State Mosquito Control Program increase of revenue in the amount of \$927.64.

Comm. Rock Meeks made a motion to approve Resolution 2018-001 as requested. Second was made by Comm. Joyner and the MOTION CARRIES.

## COUNTY ATTORNEY

Atty. Brown gave an update to the Board stating the plaintiffs in the Atheists litigation have filed a "Motion to Alter and Amend" the judgement. Atty. Brown stated she will update the Board with any further information as it becomes available.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Linda Cooper questioned if certain employees would be receiving the pay increase. These questions were answered by Wilbur Dean and Comm. John Meeks.

Terry Witt stated he thought the purchase of the Waccasassa Fish Camp by the County was a good idea. Helen Cialella also spoke regarding the benefits of this purchase.

Sheriff McCallum announced on January 25<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 A.M. there will be a road dedication ceremony on HWY 19 near Otter Creek for Levy County Deputy Haygood Ellzey, who was slain in the line of duty in January of 1945.

Toni Collins stated the Levy County Historical Society is offering a \$1,000 reward for the return of the manufacturer's plaques stolen from the Pat-Mac locomotive in Gulf Hammock.

## COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

**Comm. John Meeks** stated there is a Public Comment period on the Implementation Plan for the RESTORE Act which can be found at [www.levycounty.org/restoreact.aspx](http://www.levycounty.org/restoreact.aspx). Public comment is open at this site for 45 days.

Comm. John Meeks announced there is a meeting today at 5:30 at the Chiefland Women's Club regarding the Manatee Springs State Park.

Comm. John Meeks stated there will be a Martin Luther King celebration in Bronson this weekend.

**Comm. Joyner** announced the Levy County Education Foundation Gala is scheduled for February 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Comm. Rooks** spoke of the problem of roadway trash in the county and stated she is in favor of creating a second inmate crew.

After a lengthy discussion among the Commissioners, Mr. Dean was asked to inquire of additional inmates and the expense of a vehicle with trailer. The Commissioners also discussed the option of creating a second position for an individual to supervise another inmate crew.

**Comm. Brooks** stated there will be a Martin Luther King parade in Williston on Saturday at 11:00 A.M.

The meeting recessed at 12:53 P.M.

The meeting reconvened at 1:00 P.M.

### **TOURIST DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR INTERVIEWS**

The following applicants were interviewed by the Commissioners for the position of Tourist Development Director:

Emily Casey  
Donna Burrack  
Gerald Crawford

The Commissioners agreed by consensus to have Jacqueline Martin contact the 4th applicant (Beth Javens) who could not be present for re-scheduling an interview before making a decision and they discussed having Mr. Crawford bring in a marketing plan for Levy County tourism. It was also agreed by consensus for Mr. Dean and Comm. John Meeks to determine the salary for the individual chosen for the position.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COMMISSION, THE MEETING  
ADJOURNED AT 2:26 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