

**REGULAR MEETING  
LEVY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
JUNE 16, 2020**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Levy County Commissioners was held on June 16, 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

Chairman Brooks called the Meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. Comm. Rock Meeks gave the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Comm. John Meeks.

**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>138134-138273</b>
<b>FUND</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
GENERAL REVENUE	100,552.39
ROAD	55,120.63
SHIP	28,923.07
MOSQUITO CONTROL	216.42
TRANSPORTATION	2,105.20
COURT FACILITIES	25,068.23
MISC GRANTS	185,433.02
EMS	20,796.77
FIRE	8,452.72
TOURIST DEVELOPMENT	436.00
UTILITIES	6,661.23
COMMUNICATION	20,417.28
BLDG INSPECT & SAFETY	544.38
CAPITAL PROJECTS	23,907.61
LANDFILL	2,336.11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 480,971.06</b>
<b>EFT/ACH PAYMENT</b>	<b>\$ 282,056.16</b>

## **MINUTES**

Requesting Board approval of minutes for the Regular Meeting held May 5, 2020.

Comm. Rock Meeks made a motion to approve the minutes for the Regular Meeting held May 5, 2020 as presented. Second was made by Comm. Rooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

## **AGENDA ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, MODIFICATIONS**

Comm. John Meeks made a motion to amend the item on the agenda regarding the Agreement with the Florida Department of Emergency Management for CARES Act funding. The amendment as stated by Atty. Brown is to include authorization for the Chairman to sign the Agreement. Second was made by Comm. Rooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

Comm. Joyner made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Tim Wortham, Cedar Key City Commissioner spoke to the Board regarding unforeseen expenses incurred during the pandemic by the City of Cedar Key. He stated the City is interested in any funding which may be obtained through the CARES Act. John MacDonald, Emergency Management addressed Mr. Wortham's inquiry stating all of the City's had been emailed information on reimbursement of expenses through the State and encouraged the City of Cedar Key to follow the guidelines and submit their requests.

## **PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS**

- A. Adoption of Proclamation 2020-068 recognizing the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of Levy County, Florida.

Comm. John Meeks read the Proclamation into public record, then made a motion to approve Proclamation 2020-068 as presented. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

- B. Mr. Dean made a presentation to Kelly Jerrels for over 39 years of service with the Levy County Road Department. Retirement date: June 30, 2020.

## **LEVY COUNTY COMMISSIONER MATT BROOKS, CHAIRMAN**

Ratify Emergency Order 2020-070 rescinding Emergency Order 2020-059, as amended eliminating restrictions on gatherings of groups of more than ten (10) people and providing County Support and implementation of Governor's Phase 2: Safe. Smart. Step-by-Step. Plan for Florida's Recovery.

Comm. John Meeks made a motion to ratify Emergency Order 2020-070 rescinding Emergency Order 2020-059 as presented. Second was made by Comm. Joyner and the MOTION CARRIES.

## **BUILDING & ZONING**

Ben Maxson, Development Director

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Hardship Variance (Ha.Va. 02-20) Tatum and Angela Hagerman petitioning the Board for a Hardship Variance to allow a second dwelling in order to take care of their mother and grandmother.

Atty. Brown swore in members of the audience wishing to speak regarding the Hardship Variance.

Atty. Brown asked if there was any ex-parte communication by any of the Commissioners. Comm. John Meeks stated he had ex-parte communication regarding this item.

Comm. Brooks asked if anyone in the audience wished to speak for or against the item as presented. Audience members who spoke were Petitioner Tatum Hagerman and Jeana Ballard.

Comm. Joyner made a motion to approve Hardship Variance (Ha.Va. 02-20) as presented. Second was made by Comm. John Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

## **LEVY COUNTY COMMISSIONER JOHN MEEKS**

Comm. John Meeks requested Board approval of the Agreement and the Chairman's signature with the Florida Department of Emergency Management for CARES Act Funding and stated a contact person would need to be appointed. Comm. John Meeks stated the amount Levy County would be receiving is \$1,937,606.

Comm. John Meeks made a motion to approve the Agreement with the Chairman's signature with the Florida Department of Emergency Management and appointed Wilbur Dean as the contact person. Second was made by Comm. Joyner and the MOTION CARRIES.

## **LEVY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Sheriff Bobby McCallum requested the BOCC Chairman's signature on the Crime Stoppers of Alachua County, Inc. Letter of Agreement.

Comm. Rooks made a motion to approve the Chairman's signature on the Crime Stoppers of Alachua County, Inc. Letter of Agreement as requested. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

## **SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS**

Tammy Jones, Supervisor of Elections requested Board approval for Resolution 2020-065, amending the final budget for FY 2019-2020 in the amount \$56,488 as a result of grant funds received from the Joint Election Security Initiative (JESI). These are non-matching funds intended to help fiscally constrained counties secure their systems for the 2020 elections.

Comm. Rock Meeks made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-065 as requested. Second was made by Comm. Joyner and the MOTION CARRIES.

## **NATURE COAST BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

David Pieklik gave a regular progress report to the Board for April – June, 2020 for the Nature Coast Business Development Council.

Mr. Pieklik requested permission to work with the Board or the Grant Coordinator to pursue an Economic Development (EDA) federal grant which would provide funding of an additional staff member for his office.

Comm. Brooks stated he would be interested in meeting with Mr. Pieklik and Mr. Dean to further discuss this item.

Following discussion and guidance by Atty. Brown, the Commissioners approved by consensus to allow Mr. Pieklik to work with Mr. Dean to make application for the grant which he spoke of, returning at a later date for ratification by the Board.

## **UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA**

Dr. Savanna Barry and Dr. Mark Clark

Dr. Savanna Barry spoke to the Board requesting approval of the Temporary Right of Entry Agreement. The purpose for this Agreement is for the shoreline improvements in Cedar Key approved at a previous Board meeting.

Comm. John Meeks made a motion to approve the Temporary Right of Entry Agreement as presented. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

## **LEVY COUNTY AHAC COMMITTEE**

Natalie Thomas spoke to the Board on behalf of the AHAC Committee (Affordable Housing Advisory Committee) and requested replacements in order for them to have a working Committee as they have been unable to conduct business due to lack of members. Ms. Thomas stated before Shenley Neely's departure, a recommendation had been made to the Board to add new members in order to form a functioning committee and inquired of the status of this recommendation. She stated there had been discussion at the State level of an elected official being one of the committee members.

Comm. John Meeks offered to serve on this committee.

Atty. Brown added the AHAC Committee had an Ordinance in need of changes and she had been waiting for the decision by Legislature on a bill which would change the structure of the committee. This was signed by the Governor last week. Atty. Brown stated she could now make necessary changes to the Ordinance and appointments could then be made.

Ms. Thomas stated assisting individuals to find affordable site built homes can be difficult as many are out of the price range of most and she inquired of the possibility of adding mobile homes as an option.

Audience member, Linda Cooper stated she was interested in being on the Committee as a private citizen and inquired of the requirements.

Marlon Gayle responded there is a resident position available and application could be made. The Board would then appoint members.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

### **COUNTY COORDINATOR**

Wilbur Dean requested the Board tentatively ratify the Master Collective Bargaining Agreement between Levy County and the Northeast Florida Public Employee's Local 630 signed and approved by Wilbur Dean and LIUNA on 06/10/2020.

Jared Blanton spoke to the Board regarding the amount the Board would be paying for the employees. Audience member Terry Witt spoke regarding this item.

Comm. Joyner made a motion to tentatively ratify the Master Collective Bargaining Agreement, to be finalized upon final approval by the Union. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

## **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

Mitch Harrell, Director

Mr. Harrell Requested Board approval and signature of the Chairman on Resolution 2020-069 with a budget amendment accepting the Department of Health Matching Grant in the amount of \$31,500.00. The funds are to be used to fund the purchase of mechanical CPR devices and the county's match amount is 25% (\$10,500).

Comm. John Meeks made a motion to approve with the Chairman's signature Resolution 2020-069 as requested. Second was made by Comm. Rooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

## **PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENT**

Alicia Tretheway, Coordinator

Requesting Board approval to appropriate contingency reserves with approval of a budget amendment. This is necessary to move money from contingency reserves in the amount of \$21,000 to professional services to pay New River Technology for IT Services.

Comm. Rooks made a motion to appropriate contingency reserves by approval of a budget amendment as requested. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

## **TRANSIT**

Connie Conley, Director

- A. Requesting Board approval for ratification of the Chairman's signature on the Public Transportation Grant Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation, for Federal Share CARES Act 5311 funding. The amount of this agreement increased from the original amount of \$757,225 to \$1,387,903 for transportation expenses, for a period of three years beginning March 1, 2020.

Comm. Rock Meeks made a motion to ratify of the Chairman's signature on the Public Transportation Grant Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation as presented. Second was made by Comm. Rooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

- B. Requesting Board approval of the Memorandum of Agreement for the designation of the Levy County Commissioners by the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged to continue being the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC), under Florida's Transportation Disadvantaged Program for Levy County. This continuance of the MOA will be for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2025. The current MOA ends June 30, 2020.

Comm. John Meeks made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement as presented. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

- C. Requesting Board approval of the 2020-2021 Transportation Disadvantaged Trip & Equipment Grant Agreement. This grant application was previously approved along with the budget amendment for funding beginning July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. The grant amount is \$459,821 at 90% reimbursement.

Comm. Rock Meeks made a motion to approve the 2020-2021 Transportation Disadvantaged Trip & Equipment Grant Agreement as presented. Second was made by Comm. John Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

## **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

John MacDonald, Director

- A. Presenting Emergency Declarations 2020-066 and 2020-067 for Board ratification.

Comm. John Meeks made a motion to ratify Emergency Declarations 2020-066 and 2020-067 as presented. Second was made by Comm. Joyner and the MOTION CARRIES.

- B. Requesting Board approval to send out 2 RFP's:
  1. Post Disaster Cleaning and Sanitation Services for Public Shelters and
  2. Veterinary Services during a Disaster.

Comm. John Meeks made a motion to approve sending out the two RFP's as requested. Second was made by Comm. Joyner and the MOTION CARRIES.

Audience members Terry Witt, Dana Sheffield and Renate Cannon spoke regarding this item.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Natalie Thomas spoke to the Board inquiring if they would consider making the old LHAP Plan (Local Housing Assistance Plan) match the current LHAP Plan as it has become difficult to find a home within the old plan.

Marlon Gayle also spoke regarding the issue of finding homes within the LHAP parameters.

Linda Cooper spoke regarding the limited lifespan of mobile homes and urged the Commissioners to carefully consider adding them to the SHIP program.

## **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

**Comm. Joyner** congratulated Comm. John Meeks and Comm. Brooks as they will remain Commissioners for another four years. He then thanked the citizens of Levy County for allowing him to also serve as Commissioner for another four years.

**Comm. John Meeks** congratulated all of the Levy County elected officials retaining their positions as they have had no opposition.

Comm. John Meeks reported of Zoom meetings which he had attended: the Small County Coalition, Florida Association of Counties.

**Comm. Rooks** invited everyone to the Open House for the Animal Service shelter facilities tomorrow at 9:30 A.M.

**Comm. Brooks** brought everyone's attention to the "new" black curtain behind the Commissioner seats on stage and thanked Linda Cooper for the suggestion he bring it from the Williston High School auditorium before demolition began.

Comm. Brooks reported the Tire Amnesty Day held recently at the Landfill was a success.

The meeting recessed at 12:00 P.M.

The meeting reconvened at 1:40 P.M.

## **MERIDIAN BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE**

David P. Savoie, President/CEO presented Meridian's fiscal year 2021 funding request to the Board for their consideration. Following his presentation, Mr. Savoie stated the request for funding by the Board for fiscal year 2020-2021 is a 5% increase for a total amount of \$85,050.

Audience member Terry Witt spoke regarding this item.

## **LEVY PREVENTION COALITION**

Jonathan Lewis spoke to the Board making the request for funding for fiscal year 2020/2021 for Levy Prevention Coalition in the amount of \$36,000.

Comm. John Meeks made a motion to approve an \$8,000 increase for Levy Prevention Coalition, bringing their total to \$20,000. Second was made by Comm. Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

## **LEVY COUNTY CLERK OF COURT & COMPTROLLER**

Jared Blanton, Finance Officer

Presentation of Levy County – BOCC Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2021 Budget for Constitutional Officers & Outside Agencies discussion. Mr. Blanton stated the next Workshop scheduled for June 23<sup>rd</sup> may not be needed, depending upon what is decided with today's workshop. There may also be a need for only one of the Workshops scheduled for July, as long as a proposed millage rate is set and communicated with the Property Appraiser's office by August 4<sup>th</sup>.

### Meridian

Following discussion, Comm. Rooks made a motion to the 5% increase in funding for Meridian for a total of \$85,050. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES. Comm. John Meeks voted NO.

### Clerk of Court

Mr. Blanton presented the FY 2020/2021 funding request for the Clerk of Court, a 2.1% increase in the amount of \$18,221.

Comm. John Meeks made a motion to approve the increase request for the Clerk of Court as requested. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

### Supervisor of Elections

Mr. Blanton presented the FY 2020/2021 funding request for the Supervisor of Elections, a 4% increase in the amount of \$23,000.

Comm. John Meeks made a motion to approve the increase request for the Supervisor of Elections as requested. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

### Property Appraiser

Mr. Blanton presented the FY 2020/2021 funding request for the Property Appraiser, a 2.8% increase in the amount of \$30,969.



Comm. Rock Meeks made a motion to approve the increase request for the Property Appraiser as requested. Second was made by Comm. Rooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

Sheriff

Mr. Blanton presented the FY 2020/2021 funding request for the Sheriff’s Office, a 5.9% increase in the amount of \$846,119.

Sheriff McCallum spoke to the Board regarding his funding request and introduced Nicole Gore, Finance Director for the Sheriff’s Department.

Comm. John Meeks made a motion to approve a \$675,000 increase for the Sheriff’s Office. In addition, any money reverted back to the Board by the Sheriff this year may be utilized for Capital Outlay funding. Second was made by Comm. Rooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

The Commissioners agreed by consensus to direct Atty. Brown to begin conversations to check into the law enforcement MSTU for expansion at the Sheriff’s Department.

Emergency Management

Mr. Blanton spoke to the Board regarding the option for Emergency Management App Development and Support which would require approval of a budget amendment in the amount of \$15,000.

Comm. John Meeks made a motion to approve the budget addition as explained by Mr. Blanton. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Blanton stated the next Budget Meeting would be following the July 21<sup>st</sup> Regular Board Meeting.

Upon questioning by Comm. Brooks regarding the status of health insurance amounts, Mr. Dean responded he should know something in the next week.

Mr. Dean requested direction from the Board with regard to seeking a new director for the Planning Department. The Planning Council has been utilized currently in the absence of a County Planner.

Comm. Brooks expressed an interest in hearing from Ben Maxson, Development Department Director at the next meeting of his ideas and concerns of what direction should be taken.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COMMISSION, THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:06 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, Matt Brooks