

**REGULAR MEETING  
LEVY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
JUNE 18, 2019**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Levy County Commissioners was held on June 18, 2019 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

Chairman John Meeks called the Meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. Comm. 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. Brooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

<b>CHECK NUMBER</b>	<b>134624-134777</b>
<b>FUND</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
GENERAL REVENUE	76,065.75
ROAD	212,612.19
SHIP	29,953.00
MOSQUITO CONTROL	285.59
TRANSPORTATION	17,102.63
COURT FACILITIES	2,660.03
MISC GRANTS	70,308.19
EMS	46,939.09
FIRE	10,511.62
TOURIST DEVELOPMENT	2,170.64
UTILITIES	67,435.33
COMMUNICATION	19,649.42
CAPITAL PROJECTS	48,745.54
LANDFILL	135,727.17
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 740,166.19</b>

## **MINUTES**

The minutes for the Special Board meeting held on April 30, 2019 and the Regular Board meeting held on May 7, 2019 were presented for Board approval.

Comm. Joyner made a motion to approve the minutes for the Special Board meeting held on April 30, 2019 as presented. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

Comm. Brooks made a motion to approve the minutes for the Regular Board meeting held on May 7, 2019 as presented. Second was made by Comm. Rooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Tom Reaves spoke to the Board regarding his efforts to divide a piece of property he purchased in Levy County. He requested the Board consider changing the Ordinance which prevents him from dividing his property with his two sons for five years from the date of purchase. Mr. Reaves stated he has been told this cannot be done.

Comm. John Meeks questioned who was the deciding person or Board which had denied the request and was informed by Mr. Reaves it was former Building Department Director, Mr. Hammond. Comm. John Meeks suggested Mr. Reaves contact the Building Department again to inquire of the status of his request as Mr. Hammond had retired and Bob Boulette is the new Building Department Director.

Comm. Joyner stated he recently attending a Small County Coalition meeting and shared how proud he was to have attended with all of the Levy County Commissioners and Mr. Dean.

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

Comm. Brooks read Proclamation 2019-049 into public record which recognizes the Williston High School Varsity Baseball Team as the 2019 FHSAA Class 1A State Champions.

Comm. Brooks made a motion to approve Proclamation 2019-049 as presented. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

## **CARR, RIGGS & INGRAM**

April Shuping, Partner

Ms. Shuping presented to the Board the FY 2018 annual audited financial statements and required communications. (Audit/GR-08)

## MERIDIAN BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE

Alan Paulin, Sr. Vice President provided the Board with an update/final report of the Levy County Jail Diversion Planning Grant.

### DEPARTMENT REPORTS

#### PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENT

Alicia Tretheway, Coordinator

- A. Requesting the Board to review the recommendation of the top three (3) proposers as recommended by the Auditing Selection Committee for determination of final award. Mrs. Tretheway stated the top three were:

1. James Moore
2. Purvis Gray & Company
3. Powell & Jones

Comm. Rooks made a motion to approve the recommended Auditors, James Moore and to enter into negotiations. Second was made by Comm. Joyner and the MOTION CARRIES.

- B. Requesting the Board to accept the lowest, responsible, responsive bidder IES for the purchase of 2 garbage compactors/2 containers for the 8 Mile Transfer Station. Mrs. Tretheway stated there was only one bidder.

Comm. Rock Meeks made a motion to approve the bidder IES for the purchase of 2 garbage compactors/2 containers as requested. Second was made by Comm. Brooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

- C. Requesting the Board to reject and cancel the RFP process for ADA Compliance Document Remediation Services. Mrs. Tretheway stated after her review, it was determined the proposals were out of the Counties price range.

Comm. Joyner made a motion to reject and cancel the RFP process for ADA Compliance Document Remediation Services as requested. Second was made by Comm. Rooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

- D. Requesting the Board to waive the bid process and approve the Agreement/SOW between ADA Site Compliance and Levy County for the remediation of PDF's. The price in the Agreement is \$2.85 for 13,177 pages, for a total cost of \$37,554.45.

Comm. Brooks made a motion to waive the bid process and approve the Agreement/SOW between ADA Site Compliance and Levy County for the remediation of PDF's as requested. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

## **ROAD DEPARTMENT**

Alice LaLonde, Administrative Manager

Requesting Board approval for the purchase a 2019 Chevrolet Silverado Crew WT 4WD truck in the amount of \$31,545.00 by utilizing the Florida State Government bid pricing from Big Bend in Chiefland out of stock.

Comm. Joyner made a motion to approve the purchase a 2019 Chevrolet Silverado Crew WT 4WD in the amount of \$31,545.00 as requested. Second was made by Comm. Brooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

## **TRANSIT**

Connie Conley, Director

Requesting Board approval of Resolution 2019-047 amending the current FY 2018-2019 budget to include funding for 2018-5311 Operating grant in the amount of \$480,168.00 to be invoiced at 50%. The total to be reimbursed is \$240,084.

Comm. Brooks made a motion to approve Resolution 2019-047 as presented. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

## **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

Mitch Harrell, Director

- A. Requesting Board approval of Resolution 2019-046 amending the final budget for FY 2018-2019. Chief Harrell stated the Department was approved for grant funding to purchase additional mechanical CPR devices; approval of this Resolution would allow them to add the funds in the amount of \$51,000 to their budget.

Comm. Rooks made a motion to approve Resolution 2019-046 as requested. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

- B. Requesting Board approval of the Billing and Services Agreement and Business Associate Addendum between Levy County and EMS Management & Consultants, Inc.

Comm. Joyner made a motion to approve the Billing and Services Agreement and Associate Addendum as requested. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Susan Haines reported the amount she turned in to Jared this morning from the Board the Escheated Land Sale held yesterday was \$131,235. She stated not all lands sold and she will bring a full report to the Board once she has compiled all of the information.

Mayor Merritt announced the South Levy Marketplace will be taking place this Saturday in Inglis at the Food Ranch parking lot. Mayor Merritt stated she had attended the Policy Committee for Energy and Utilities last week. She stated water quality and quantity are going to be a high priority and if the budget goes through at the Governor's office there will be \$570,000 for the Town of Inglis for the wastewater treatment plant. Mayor Merritt stated she is working to get a Memorandum of Understanding for the Whitewater Kayak venue and with a local business owner for a "Bike Week" in Inglis. This type of event could have a significant financial impact.

Wilbur Dean reported an item from his attendance in the County Manager's Meeting at the conference he attended this past week concerning micro towers in the county and the company's which will be using them.

Sallie Ann Collins asked about the hospital in Williston, the possibility of a shopping center with a Publix grocery store, and talk of a hotel coming to Williston.

Comm. Brooks stated as of right now, from the information he has, the hospital is still in arrears in their property taxes and the Emergency Room is still not re-opened.

Comm. Brooks stated he is also aware of the talk of a Publix grocery store coming to Williston, but not when. Comm. Brooks stated there has been talk in the past of a hotel coming to Williston, but he knows of nothing definite. Comm. Joyner also stated he knew of the efforts going on to bring in a hotel, but nothing at this time.

## COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

**Comm. Brooks** reported of his attendance of the FAC Conference and was proud to have full representation in attendance. He announced Comm. John Meeks would now be heading up the Small County Coalition and was re-elected as a District Representative for the Florida Association of Counties to be on the Executive Board. Comm. Brooks stated he graduated with his ACC Certification and also received the Presidential Advocacy Award.

**Comm. Rock Meeks** reported of his attendance of the FAC Conference and was proud of all in attendance from Levy County. He stated Levy County is well represented, especially with Comm. John Meeks and thanked him for what he is doing for the county.

**Comm. John Meeks** thanked the other Commissioners stating the reason he is able to do what he does is because of their support and for the supportive push from Comm. Rooks to pursue the positions he now holds. Comm. John Meeks spoke of a letter from Ms. Roberts with the Town of Bronson concerning the use of the former school gymnasium on the property purchased by the Board. He asked the other Commissioners if they would entertain the idea of selling just the gymnasium to the Town of Bronson, but keeping the remainder of the property or the possibility of leasing it as this would keep the building in use.

After discussion by the Commissioners, it was agreed all wished to see the building used for what it was originally intended, sports activities, and all were against selling it.

The meeting recessed at 11:30 A.M.

The meeting reconvened at 2:00 P.M.

## BUDGET WORKSHOP

Jared Blanton introduced Robert Boschen to the Board, the new Senior Financial Analyst for the Clerk of Courts. The following dates for upcoming budget meetings are:

July 30, 2019 Final Workshop – Required to receive Tentative Budget and set Proposed Millage.  
September 3, 2019 – Tentative Hearings (5:01 P.M.)  
September 17, 2019 – Final Hearings (5:01 P.M.)

Mr. Blanton gave an overview of built in major changes to deficit summary. The constitutional officers' budget requests were then discussed.

- Supervisor of Elections, Tammy Jones

Mrs. Jones stated her budget request includes a \$65,500 increase, from \$570,500 in FY 2019 to \$636,000 in FY 2020. This is a not a recurring increase due to the additional Presidential Preference Primary. There is an unknown impact of a judicial order regarding Spanish language accessibility.

Comm. Joyner made a motion to approve the budget increase for the Supervisor of Elections at \$64,000. The motion dies for lack of a second.

Comm. Rock Meeks made a motion to approve the budget increase for the Supervisor of Elections at the requested amount of \$65,500. Second was made by Comm. Brooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

- Property Appraiser, Oz Barker

Mr. Barker stated his budget request includes a \$41,993 increase, from \$1,047,854 in FY 2019 to \$1,089,847 in FY 2020. Mr. Barker stated his budget request includes a 5% raise for his employees.

Comm. Joyner made a motion to approve the budget increase for the Property Appraiser at \$41,000. Second was made by Comm. Brooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

- Clerk of Court

Mr. Blanton stated the budget request for the Clerk of Court for FY 2020 is \$870,000, which reflects a \$16,000 decrease from what was budgeted at the last meeting.

Comm. Brooks made a motion to approve the budget request for the Clerk of Court at \$870,000 as requested. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

- Levy County Sheriff's Office

Mr. Blanton stated the Sheriff's request for FY 2020 is \$14,363,958. This represents an increase of \$636,659, however, approximately \$142,000 of this is funded by additional BOCC revenues generated by his office, and have already been build-in to the current staff budget presented. Mr. Blanton pointed out to the Board if they decided to request additional security from the Sheriff for the County Annex, he has also put in an option to request funding offset, reimbursement, or draw reduction from the offices requesting the additional security services, as there is no legal mandate for this.

The remaining \$494,377 of the increase consists of two parts:

1. \$388,196 to fund the personnel and operating needs of the Sheriff's office (a 2.8% increase)
2. \$106,181 to fund optional security at the new County Annex (Bronson High School Property)

Sheriff McCallum spoke to the Board, giving further explanation of the requested amounts.

Comm. Joyner made a motion to approve the Sheriff Operations increase request for FY 2020 in the amount of \$388,196 as requested. Second was made by Comm. Brooks and the MOTION CARRIES.

Linda Fugate, Tax Collector, spoke to the Board regarding security at the County Annex stating she had obtained an estimate from an outside security firm to provide this service for nearly \$200,000, exceeding the amount presented for the Sheriff's office to provide security. She stated her office collects over \$40,000,000 a year for the Board to spend and regardless of which budget the money is taken from, it is still county funds.

Mr. Barker stated he has not budgeted for the additional security expense. Mrs. Fugate stated if part expense is paid by her budget, it would just mean there would be less for her office to return back to the Board at the end of the year. Mrs. Fugate pointed out the response time for the Sheriff's office would not be as quick as in the City of Williston and Chiefland without on-site security and it should be the Board's responsibility.

Sheriff McCallum stated there would be no scanner at any of the many entrances to the Annex, only Deputy presence.

Comm. Joyner made a motion to approve the Sheriff's increase request for Annex Security for FY 2020 in the amount of \$106,181 as requested. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

- Department of Public Safety

Mr. Blanton spoke of the EMS fund stating it has a significant budget deficit meaning restructure of personnel costs, or further assessment increases, or a combination of the two, will need to be considered within 1 or 2 years, depending on factors such as the rate at which ambulances are replaced.

Chief Harrell spoke to the Board regarding the budget for the Fire Departments and the challenge of providing coverage for the entire county.

Mr. Blanton presented increase requests for the Department of Public Safety:

One-time Williston Fire increase request	\$10,000
One-time Bronson Fire increase request	\$12,300
Cedar Key Fire recurring operational request	\$ 8,117
One-Time Inglis Fire increase request	\$ 7,044

Comm. Joyner made a motion to approve the requests as listed above for the individual City Fire Departments. Second was made by Comm. Rock Meeks and the MOTION CARRIES.

Comm. John Meeks expressed his interest in a centrally located stand-alone Fire/EMS station in the county.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COMMISSION, THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 3:40 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