

**REGULAR MEETING  
LEVY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SEPTEMBER 16, 2025**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners was held on September 16, 2025 at 9:00 A.M. in the BoCC Meeting Room at the Levy County Government Center.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Madam Chair Mills called the Meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

**INVOCATION:** Given by Comm. Hiers

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Led by Comm. Hodge

**ROLL CALL:**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**  
Madam Chair, Comm. Desiree Mills  
Vice Chair, Comm. Tim Hodge  
Comm. Charlie Kennedy  
Comm. Rock Meeks  
Comm. Johnny Hiers

**ALSO PRESENT:**  
County Attorney – Nicolle Shalley  
County Manager – Mary-Ellen Harper

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

- **Action Taken:**
  - Amendments: No changes
  - Motion Comm. Kennedy
  - Second Comm. Hodge
  - Vote Outcome 5-0 passes

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**ELECTED OFFICIALS:***(Audio 2:47)*  
*NONE*

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**Proclamations/Recognitions** *(Audio 3:31), Jacqueline Martin, Human Resources Director*

**1. Presentation of milestone service awards for completion of five continuous years of service and at the end of every additional 5 years of service for the quarter ending September 30, 2025.**

Public Safety Employees:  
Cathy Wilson, 5 years  
Jeremy Pittman, 10 years

**2. Presentation of a proclamation declaring October 16, 2025 as Central Florida Community Action Agency Day.** *(Audio 6:03)*

- Comm. Tim Hodge presented a proclamation recognizing the Central Florida Community Action Agency.
- Caroline Ruff-Looney in attendance and thanked BoCC for recognition.
- **Action Taken:**
  - Motion Comm. Meeks to approve
  - Second Comm. Kennedy
  - Vote Outcome 5-0 passes

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** *(Audio 10:45)*

- **Speakers:**

- Speaker 1: Jerry Dedenbach, Planning Officials Training in Newberry. October 1 for all elected officials, advisory officials and staff. All day event and will have 5 experts and the event is expected to last all day.
- Speaker 2: Marlon Gayle, past Housing Manager, Ship Program since June of 2013 to August 2025. Reviewed accomplishments of his time at Levy County and thanked the BoCC for the time he was able to serve in Levy County.

### Business or Informational Items

**3. Requesting the Levy County Board of County Commissioners to approve Resolution 2025-58. A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA, REGARDING ELECTIONS; IMPLEMENTING THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 106.07(2)(A)2., FLORIDA STATUTES, BY REQUIRING ELECTRONIC FILING OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTS OF LOCAL CANDIDATES, POLITICAL COMMITTEES AND COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES OF POLITICAL PARTIES; ESTABLISHING REQUIREMENTS FOR MAINTENANCE, ACCESS AND USAGE OF THE ELECTRONIC FILING SYSTEM; AUTHORIZING THE SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS TO IMPLEMENT AND ADMINISTER THE SYSTEM; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (Audio 19:15)**

- **Presenter:** Tammy Jones, Supervisor of Elections
- **Discussion:** Adopting resolution for digital finance filing requirements into the record. This format has been used for almost 20 years
- **Action Taken:**
  - Motion Comm. Hiers to approve
  - Second Comm. Kennedy
  - Vote Outcome 5-0 passes

**4. Requesting the Levy County Board of County Commissioners to receive a presentation on the renovations to the Courthouse. (Audio 21:52)**

- **Presenters:** Michael Reeves, Eighth Circuit Judicial Trial Court Administrator
- **Discussion:** Gave overview of courthouse renovation project. Monies funding this project are from Article V grant funds that were established many years ago and set aside for improvements on the Levy County Courthouse.
- - Public Comments
    - Jeff Hardison (Chiefland)- reminded the BoCC that this very room had been previously used by the judiciary for a Civil Trial that lasted a few days as an emergency need.
- **Action Taken:**
  - Consensus given by BoCC to move this project to be bid out.

**5. Requesting the Levy County Board of County Commissioners approval and the Chair's signature on the application for the Florida Jobs Growth Grant. (Audio 26:13)**

- **Presenter:** Tisha Whitehurst, Economic Development and Tourism Division Director
- **Discussion:** Supporting strategic initiatives in Chiefland and Levy County and this would provide funding for infrastructure and assist in job growth.
- **Action Taken:**
  - Motion                                      Comm. Hiers to approve
  - Second                                      Comm. Kennedy
  - Vote Outcome                              5-0 passes



30:00)

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**Clerk and providing an effective date.** (*Audio 1:16*)

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- Diane Garte- wants clarification on the residences not being in the right zone.
  - Mr Dedenbach clarified
- Michelle Markward, GM at Black Prong- received an opportunity 5 years ago to manage Black Prong where she didn't have to go work outside Levy County. Goal is to give customers world class experience and keep a peaceful environment.
- Cliff Morrin, Operations Manager at Black Manager. Spoke about hiring staff that all share same mission and want to have a career. Like a thriving community that protects natural beauty. Military retiree that has enjoyed the peaceful, rural community and not commuting out of county.
- Michelle Collins, Guest Relations Manager. Lived in Levy County since 2007. Welcomes guest and coordinates their time and experience at Black Prong.

- \*\*\*Meeting was recessed at 12:01pm and reconvened at 1:05pm.\*\*\***

- **Action Taken:**
  - Motion Comm. Meeks to approve with presented changes
  - Second Comm. Hiers
  - Vote Outcome 5-0 passes

- **Presenter:** Connie Conley, Community Services Division
- **Discussion:** Provided summary of third quarter report for activities taking place in the Community Services Division.
- **No Action Taken**

**10. Requesting the Levy County Board of County Commissioners to approve the 2026 Board Meeting dates as presented. (Audio 3:36)**



- **Presenter:** Mary-Ellen Harper, County Manager
- **Discussion:** This item is to set the meeting dates for calendar 2026.
- **Action Taken:**
  - Motion                                      Comm. Meeks to approve
  - Second                                        Comm. Hodge
  - Vote Outcome                                5-0 passes

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**11. Requesting the Levy County Board of County Commissioners to approve the time extension amendment to the continuing professional service agreements that are included in the attachments to this agenda item. (Audio 3:46)**

- **Presenter:** Mary-Ellen Harper, County Manager
- **Discussion:** The time extension agreements will extend the current continuing professional service agreements for a term of 3 years, ending on September 30, 2028. This action gets everyone on the same timeline for renewals/expiration dates
- **Action Taken:**
  - Motion                                      Comm. Meeks to approve
  - Second                                        Comm. Kennedy
  - Vote Outcome                                5-0 passes

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**12. Requesting the Levy County Board of County Commissioners to approve the contract renewal with New River Technology for the second of the three additional one-year terms. This renewal will extend the term of the Agreement through September 21, 2026 (Audio 3:47)**

- **Presenter:** Mary-Ellen Harper, County Manager
- **Discussion:** New River Technology supports all of the BoCC's technology needs.
- **Action Taken:**
  - Motion                                      Comm. Hodge to approve
  - Second                                        Comm. Meeks
  - Vote Outcome                                5-0 passes

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**13. Requesting the Levy Board of County Commissioners to appoint a representative to serve on the North Central Florida Homeless Continuum of Care Council (CoC). (Audio 3:48:20)**

- **Presenter:** Mary-Ellen Harper, County Manager
- **Discussion:** BoCC asked for more information
- **Action Taken:**
  - Motion                                      Comm. Meeks moved to table item
  - Second                                        Comm. Kennedy
  - Vote Outcome                                5-0 - item tabled to a later date

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**14. Requesting the Levy County Board of County Commissioners to approve an additional \$3,787.35 for a total of \$157,626.35 for the purchase of a new air conditioner for the Levy County Courthouse from Brooks Building Solutions. (Audio 3:49:57)**

- **Presenter:** Mary-Ellen Harper, County Manager
- **Discussion:** Following the approval of the Emergency Procurement, the vendor notified the BoCC of a price change for the air conditioner. The new price is \$157,626.35 which is \$3,787.35 higher than the original \$153,839.
- **Action Taken:**
  - Motion                                      Comm. Kennedy motion to approve
  - Second                                        Comm. Meeks
  - Vote Outcome                                5-0 passes

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**15. Requesting the Levy County Board of County Commissioners to appoint a representative to the Central Florida Community Action Agency Board of Directors for the period of October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026. (Audio 3:50:50)**





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**19. Requesting the Levy County Board of County Commissioners to approve the Master Collective Bargaining Agreement between Levy County Board of County Commissioners and Levy County Professional Paramedic and EMTs, IAFF, Local #4069. (Audio 4:02:46)**

- **Presenter:** Mary-Ellen Harper, County Manager
- **Discussion:** Transitioning to the 24/72 shift is a significant change for Levy County that will require hiring approximately 19 additional personnel but will provide for a healthier and more sustainable work environment for our employees. In return for this modified schedule, employees have agreed to significant concessions that save the county money. Counties across Florida are offering \$10,000 bonuses and moving to this same type of schedule to remain competitive.
- **Action Taken:**
  - Motion                                      Comm. Meeks motion to approve
  - Second                                      Comm. Kennedy
  - Vote Outcome                              5-0 passes

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**20. Requesting the Levy County Board of County Commissioners to appropriate contingency reserves in the amount of \$50,000 to cover expenses for the remainder of fiscal 2024-2025. (Audio 4:10:29)**

- **Presenter:** Mary-Ellen Harper, County Manager
- **Discussion:** The amendment is to cover elevated expenses that exceeded the budgeted amounts. Professional services, Eight Circuit expenses and communications.
- **Action Taken:**
  - Motion                                      Comm. Meeks motion to approve
  - Second                                      Comm. Kennedy
  - Vote Outcome                              5-0 passes

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**21. Requesting the Levy County Board of County Commissioners to approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$22,800 to cover expenses for the remainder of fiscal 2024-2025. (Audio 4:11:20)**

- **Presenter:** Mary-Ellen Harper, County Manager
- **Discussion:** The amendment is to cover the purchase of OpenGov software for procurement processes to replace DemandStar and increased professional service fees.
- **Action Taken:**
  - Motion                                      Comm. Meeks motion to approve
  - Second                                      Comm. Hiers
  - Vote Outcome                              5-0 passes

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**22. Requesting the Levy County Board of County Commissioners to approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$22,800 to cover expenses for the remainder of fiscal 2024-2025. (Audio 4:11:51)**

- **Presenter:** Mitch Harrell – Director of Public Safety
- **Discussion:** Requesting the Levy County Board of County Commissioners to approve the Public Emergency Medical Transportation (PEMT) Letter of Agreement (LOA) to provide the Board’s approval to remit Intergovernmental Transfer (IGT) Funds to the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) not to exceed \$486,587.15 when invoiced by AHCA. Chief Harrell notified BoCC that county has received \$1.2 million so far with this program and expects another \$800,000 plus in the coming months totaling over \$2 million that has been put into this program. The state has created this program using federal funding. The county pays into the program \$1 and receives \$1.60 back for every dollar invested and this is for public EMS.
- **Action Taken:**
  - Motion                                      Comm. Meeks motion to approve
  - Second                                      Comm. Hodge
  - Vote Outcome                              5-0 passes

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**23. Requesting the Levy County Board of County Commissioners to approve the Third Amendment to Government Entity Tower License Agreement. (Audio 4:14:38)**

- **Presenter:** Mitch Harrell – Director of Public Safety
- **Discussion:** Under this Agreement the County is receiving use of tower site ground space in accordance with the terms of the License Agreement. This Amendment is contingent upon another agenda item – Bronson Tower Lease Amendment and represents a negotiated deal of reduced rent at the Bronson Site in exchange for increased ground space at the Chiefland Site.
- **Action Taken:**
  - Motion                                 Comm. Hiers motion to approve
  - Second                                 Comm. Meeks
  - Vote Outcome                         5-0 passes

**24. Requesting the Levy County Board of County Commissioners to approve the Third Amendment to PCS Site Agreement.** (*Audio 4:14:38*)

- **Presenter:** Mitch Harrell – Director of Public Safety
- **Discussion:** This Agreement modifies the existing lease for the Bronson Tower. This Amendment is contingent upon another agenda item – Chiefland Communications Shelter and represents a negotiated deal of reduced rent at the Bronson Site in exchange for increased ground space at the Chiefland Site.
  - Motion                                  Comm. Hiers motion to approve
  - Second                                 Comm. Meeks
  - Vote Outcome                      5-0 passes

**25. Requesting the Levy County Board of County Commissioners to receive a presentation on the Verizon Connect – Reveal asset tracking system (Audio 4:16:19)**

- **Presenter:** Jessie Robinson, Fleet Director
- **Discussion:** Installing GPS tracking systems is a strategic investment in our fleet operations. It aligns with our goals of increasing efficiency, reducing operational costs, ensuring safety, and improving overall service quality. Approval of this request will place our fleet in a stronger position to meet current demands and future growth. This bid was solicited by Sourcewell. Cost is to be \$44,340 – funded by all included department operating accounts.
  - Motion                                 Comm. Kennedy motion to approve
  - Second                                 Comm. Hiers
  - Vote Outcome                         3-2 passes

**26. Requesting the Levy County Board of County Commissioners to approve the SECO Energy grant award of \$25,000.00 for the Levy County Paramedicine Program to include medical equipment and supplies, patient education and outreach materials, training and certification of staff, and technology communication systems. (Audio 4:40:04)**

- **Presenter:** Brooke Smith, Grants-Legislative Liaison
- **Discussion:** This request is to support the full implementation of the Levy County Paramedicine Program. It will cover the necessary budgeted costs for equipment and supplies, public and patient outreach, training and certifications needed by staff, and technology communication systems. These items were budgeted for this program in the county capital budget expectations for operating expenses.
  - Motion Comm. Meeks motion to approve
  - Second Comm. Hiers
  - Vote Outcome 5-0 passes

**27. Requesting the Levy County Board of County Commissioners to award ITB\_2025\_015 Timber Harvesting at the Levy County Solid Waste Transfer Station to Gulf Forestry LLC as the highest bidder. (Audio 4:40:55)**

- **Presenter:** Travis Newsome, Assistant Director - Solid Waste
- **Discussion:** This project is to clear cut 107 acres of sand pines. It is anticipated that all wood harvested from this project will be pulpwood. The highest bid for pulpwood was from Gulf Forestry LLC at \$19.75 per ton. This is a one year contract.
  - Motion                          Comm. Meeks motion to approve
  - Second                        Comm. Kennedy



- Vote Outcome 4-1 passes

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**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Speaker 1: Linda Cooper (Williston)- wanted to clarify Mary-Ellen Harper and Mitch Harrell are to perform the efficiency study for County Fire/EMS. Mary-Ellen Harper clarified that an outside contractor will compile the data and perform the study and county staff is just managing the project.

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**Commissioner Reports**

- **Commissioner Meeks:**
    - NONE
  - **Commissioner Kennedy:**
    - Mentioned internet cameras needed at landfill. Incident over the weekend that may have been better tracked with surveillance. Weekend and night surveillance would be good in many areas around the county for security. County Manager responded that county may need to look at maybe a total approach for the entire county facilities and have consistency in security.
  - **Commissioner Hiers:**
    - Williston Fall Festival went really well. Requested community to support our youth and all of the sport teams playing right now.
  - **Madam Chair Mills:**
    - Tourist Development Council meeting last week. Shared ads of different places in Levy County to attract tourists. Also met at Central Florida Campus as a Board of Director. The meeting discussed making residents more marketable to companies to get jobs.
  - **Commissioner Hodge:**
    - Went to the Big Dock at Cedar Key and is happy to report people were fishing and a reporter was there to get pictures of the dock being reopened.
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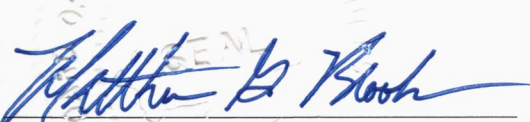
**Requesting Approval of Expenditures: \$2,363,023.66**

- Madam Chair Mills requested approval of expenditures in the amount of \$2,363,023.66.
- **Action Taken:**
  - Motion Comm. Meeks motion to approve
  - Second Comm. Kennedy
  - Vote Outcome 5-0 passed

<b>CHECK NUMBER</b>	<b>156386-156526</b>
<b>FUND</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
GENERAL REVENUE	1,310,551.79
ROAD	79,552.49
MOSQUITO CONTROL	3,906.12
TRANSPORTATION	11,436.26
COURT FACILITIES	13,686.40
MISC GRANTS	2,820.01
EMS	30,058.91
FIRE	15,530.34
TOURIST DEVELOPMENT	11,626.99
UTILITIES	2,123.06
BLDG INSPECT & SAFETY	942.91
CAPITAL PROJECTS	446,808.30
ROAD IMPRV & RESTORE	48,796.88
LANDFILL	91,024.68
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 2,068,865.14</b>
<b>EFT/ACH PAYMENT</b>	<b>\$ 294,158.52</b>
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 2,363,023.66</b>

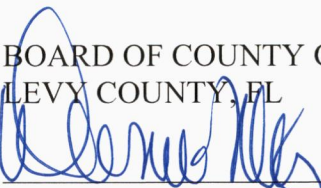
THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COMMISSION THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 2:35 PM

ATTEST:



Clerk of Court, Matt Brooks

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
LEVY COUNTY, FL



Chairman, Desiree Mills

Minutes Submitted by: Matt Brooks, Clerk of Court & Comptroller  
Date Submitted: 09/16/2025