

**REGULAR MEETING
LEVY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
October 21, 2025**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners was held on October 21, 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. Meeks

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Comm. Kennedy

ROLL CALL:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

County Attorney – Nicolle Shalley
County Manager – Mary-Ellen Harper

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

- **Action Taken:**
 - Amendments: Madam Chair Mills recommended items #8 and #10 to be moved to beginning of meeting to accommodate county contractor time savings.
 - Motion Comm. Kennedy motioned to approve amended agenda.
 - Second Comm. Hodge
 - Vote Outcome 5-0

RECOGNIZE ELECTED OFFICIALS: NONE

1. **RECOGNITION: Commissioner Hiers presented a Special Achievement Plaque on behalf of the BoCC** to the Williston Middle High School Football Coach Robby Pruitt for becoming the first coach in high school football history to achieve 200+ wins in two different states—Florida and Georgia. *(Audio 4:13)*

PUBLIC COMMENT: *NONE*

Business or Informational Items

8. Quasi-Judicial Adopt Ordinance Number 2025-11. AN ORDINANCE OF LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE ZONING MAP ATLAS BY REZONING CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY CONSISTING OF APPROXIMATELY .88 ACRES (PARCEL ID 0763600100) LOCATED AT 11490 AND 11492 NW 115TH STREET, CHIEFLAND, FLORIDA, THAT IS LOCATED WITHIN A RURAL COMMERCIAL NODE, FROM AGRICULTURE/RURAL RESIDENTIAL (A/RR) TO RURAL MIXED USE (RMU); PROVIDING DIRECTIONS TO THE COUNTY MANAGER; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A

**REPEALING CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR EXCLUSION FROM CODIFICATION;
PROVIDING DIRECTIONS TO THE CLERK AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE
DATE.** (*Audio 7:23:18*)

- **Presenter:** Laura Jones, JBPro, Interim Zoning Official
- **Discussion:** Attorney Nicolle Shalley notified the BoCC that no one from the public requested a formal hearing by way of application to the county. This petition No.CZ 25-04 was received by the Levy County Development Department from the current owner Logan Smith. Upon completion of a staff review of the petition, the Levy County Planning Commission held a Quasi-Judicial public hearing on September 22, 2025, and voted to recommend approval of this Change of Zoning and amendment to the Levy County Zoning Map Atlas.
- Stoney Smith (Chiefland) addressed the Bocc on this application request to clarify the need for this change and is looking forward to collecting tax revenue for the county.
- **Action Taken:**
 - Motion Comm. Hodge motion to approve
 - Second Comm. Meeks
 - Vote Outcome 5-0 passed

10. Adopt Ordinance Number 2025-10: AN ORDINANCE OF LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE INFRASTRUCTURE ELEMENT, THE CONSERVATION ELEMENT AND THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION ELEMENT OF THE LEVY COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN BASED ON AN UPDATED REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY PLAN AS REQUIRED BY SECTION 163.3177(6)(C), FLORIDA STATUTES; PROVIDING FOR EXCLUSION FROM CODIFICATION; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A REPEALING CLAUSE; PROVIDING DIRECTION TO THE CLERK AND COUNTY STAFF; AND PROVIDING EFFECTIVE DATES. PROVIDING DIRECTIONS TO THE CLERK AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (Audio 19:01)

- **Presenter:** Laura Jones, JBPro, Interim Zoning Official
- **Discussion:** Item was staff initiated. Letter dated May 6, 2024, the Suwannee River Water Management District (the “WMD”) notified the County that the WMD approved a 2024 Western Water Supply Plan and now the County is required by Sections 163.3177 and 373.709, Florida Statutes, to take certain actions, including amending its Comprehensive Plan;
- **Action Taken:**
 - Motion Comm. Hiers motion to approve
 - Second Comm. Meeks
 - Vote Outcome 5-0 passed

2. Adopt Resolution Number 2025-66, A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA, EXPRESSING INTENT TO PROVIDE TRANSIT SERVICES TO MEDICAID RECIPIENTS IN LEVY COUNTY; DESIGNATING THE COUNTY'S TRANSIT DIRECTOR TO SERVE AS THE MANAGING EMPLOYEE, SYSTEM USER, ADMINSTRATOR AND AUTHORIZED SIGNATORY; AUTHORIZING THE TRANSIT DIRECTOR TO SIGN AND SUBMIT ALL NECESSARY MEDICAID PROVIDER DOCUMENTS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (Audio 31:01)

- **Presenter:** Connie Conley, Public Services Division
- **Discussion:** Applying for Medicaid Provider Enrollment to provide transportation to Medicaid recipients within the county. Transit services have not been provided to Medicaid recipients, under the Medicaid program since 2012, due to changes within the Medicaid transportation program. Levy County Transit would like to offer transportation services to these recipients and have the ability to invoice and be paid through the Medicaid program.
- **Action Taken:**
 - Motion Comm. Meeks motion to approve
 - Second Comm. Hodge
 - Vote Outcome 5-0

3. Receive a presentation on Municipal Service Taxing Units from Nabors, Giblin & Nickerson, PA.. (Audio 32:14)

- **Presenters:** Mary-Ellen Harper, County Manager
 - **Discussion:** BoCC requested to have this presentation for informational purposes specifically for law enforcement. Municipal Service Taxing Units may be created to fund for law enforcement. Law Enforcement may not be funded by a special assessment such as what Levy County has in place for Fire, EMS and Solid waste because special assessments must provide a special benefit to real property.
 - **Action Taken:** No Action Taken
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4. Appoint Brooke Smith to serve on the North Central Florida Homeless Continuum of Care Council (CoC). *(Audio 1:17)*

- **Presenters:** Mary-Ellen Harper, County Manager
 - **Discussion:** Division Director of Community Services Connie Conley recommends Grants Coordinator Brooke Smith for this appointment. Brooke is presently managing the County's Affordable Housing Program.
 - **Action Taken:**
 - Motion Comm. Kennedy motion to approve
 - Second Comm. Hodge
 - Vote Outcome 5-0 passed
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5. Receive a presentation on the Fourth Quarter Fiscal Year Quarterly Report for July 1 – September 30, 2025. *(Audio 1:18:07)*

- **Presenters:** Mary-Ellen Harper, County Manager
 - **Discussion:** County Manager shared accomplishments in county for fourth quarter fiscal year. Gave staffing updates on new hires and staffing promotions. Continues to focus on cost savings through removal of take home vehicles.
 - **Action Taken:** No action taken.
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6. Approve transitioning 119 county desk phones to Verizon One Talk using the Florida Department of Management Services Contract DMS-19/20-006C at a cost of \$18.64 per phone per month for an annual cost of \$26,617.92. *(Audio 1:20:43)*

- **Presenters:** Mary-Ellen Harper, County Manager
 - **Discussion:** The transition of the county phone system will ensure continuity of operations as well as provide cost efficiencies. The county presently relies on a number of different providers for phone service at different locations. One of these providers is DMS, who has advised the county that they will be discontinuing this service next year. DMS currently charges \$22.49 per phone per month. Some of the county's other providers charge even higher rates. When complete, the transition to Verizon will reduce the monthly cost to \$18.64 per phone per month and will also allow for a reduction in the overall number of phone lines because of the "hunt group" technology that allows for a department to have a single phone number with capacity for multiple calls to come and go out at the same time.
 - **Action Taken:**
 - Motion Comm.Meeks motion to approve
 - Second Comm. Hodge
 - Vote Outcome 5-0 passed
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7. To approve the transfer of \$160,200 from General Fund Reserves for Contingency to Economic Development operating expenditures, and to approve the transfer of -\$160,200 from Tourist Development Fund operating expenses to Reserves for Contingency. *(Audio 1:23:28)*

- **Presenters:** Jason Rivera Director of Finance & Administration
- **Discussion:** During the FY26 budget process, the Economic Development Department was merged with the Tourism Development Department. As a result, personnel and operating costs for Economic Development activities were inadvertently budgeted within the Tourist Development Fund. However, pursuant to Florida Statute 125.0104(5), expenditures related to Economic Development are not an allowable use of Tourist Development Tax (TDT) funds. Therefore, these expenditures must be reclassified and funded through the General Fund. This

action does not alter the allocation of either fund; it simply transfers funding within each fund independently. This has a net-zero impact to the County's FY26 budget.

- **Action Taken:**
 - Motion Comm. Hiers motion to approve
 - Second Comm. Hodge
 - Vote Outcome 5-0 passes

9. Approve the Interlocal Agreement for Fire Inspection Services between Levy County and the City of Williston. *(Audio 1:24:56)*

- **Presenters:** Bo Cox, Director
- **Discussion:** \$65.00/hour from Professional Services to pay the City of Williston for fire inspection services.
- **Action Taken:**
 - Motion Comm. Hodge motion to approve
 - Second Comm. Kennedy
 - Vote Outcome 5-0 passes

11. Approval to proceed with the purchase of two (2) ambulances from ETR with an updated amount of \$652,744.00 previously approved by the Levy County Board of County Commission on May 7, 2024 in the amount of \$649,238.00; under the Florida Sheriff's Association Contract FSA 23-VEF17.0 in accordance with Sec. 2-200(c) of County Code; this reflects an increase of \$3,506 from the previously quoted and approved figure. *(Audio 1:26)*

- **Presenters:** Mitch Harrell – Director of Public Safety
- **Discussion:** This additional approval is due to an increase as a result of the model year change from 2024 to 2026. This purchase is part of the Capital Fleet Plan for Public Safety to ensure effective operational readiness of emergency response vehicles. Comm Kennedy expressed concern that the county is now being charged extra because its a year later and the model we paid for is no longer available. Comm Kennedy also questioned the expenses to travel to retrieve the completed ambulance.
- Linda Cooper (Williston) concerned over the added costs and why Levy County may be unique in the equipment carried on ambulances. Recommended using technology to see quality of ambulance build instead of sending employees to North Carolina.
- **Action Taken:**
 - Motion Comm. Meeks motion to approve
 - Second Comm. Kennedy
 - Vote Outcome 5-0 passed

12. Approve the purchase of a Ford F250 in the amount of \$52,048.00 from Duval Ford quoted under the Florida Sheriff's Association Light Vehicle Contract FSA 25VEL-33 in accordance with Sec. 2-200(c) of County Code. *(Audio 1:48:49)*

- **Presenters:** Mitch Harrell – Director of Public Safety
- **Discussion:** This purchase is part of the Capital Fleet Plan for Public Safety and will replace a 2013 Chevy Silverado frontline supervisor unit, rotating the most appropriate current unit to spare status.
- **Action Taken:**
 - Motion Comm. Meeks motion to approve
 - Second Comm. Kennedy
 - Vote Outcome 5-0 passed

13. Approve the EMS write-offs for the second half of FY2025 per Resolution 2012-27. *(Audio 1:49:57)*

- **Presenters:** Mitch Harrell – Director of Public Safety
- **Discussion:** Presenting write-offs as required per Resolution 2012-27. This covers a six month period and totals \$603,198.89
- **Action Taken:**
 - Motion Comm. Meeks motion to approve

- Second Comm. Kennedy
- Vote Outcome 5-0 passed

*****THE MEETING WAS RECESSED FOR 10 MINUTES*****

14. Approve the Levy County Legislative Priorities Session 2026 Packet for Delegation Meetings.
(Audio 1:55)

- **Presenters:** Brooke Smith, Grants-Legislative Liaison
- **Discussion:** The approval of the 2026 Legislative Priorities Packet will provide a unified framework for Levy County’s advocacy efforts throughout the upcoming Florida Senate and House of Representatives legislative session. This packet ensures that the County’s critical needs and strategic initiatives are clearly communicated to state leadership, agencies, and delegation members.
- **Action Taken:** Comm. Hiers asked for consensus on the legislative priorities since they changed. Madam Chair Mills confirmed consensus has been received unless a member of the BoCC objects.

15. Approve (1) A time extension from October 27, 2025 to August 27, 2026; and (2) Receipt of an additional \$538,353.40 for a total grant amount of \$5,038,353.40 for Supplemental No. 7, Contract No. G1703, FPN 438170-1-54-01 for the Construction, Engineering and Inspection for the Flexible Pavement Reconstruction of CR 330 from CR 347 to CR 336. (Audio 2:02:39)

- **Presenters:** Alice LaLonde, Administrative Coordinator, Road Department
- **Discussion:** State Funded Grant Supplemental Agreement Supplemental No. 7, Contract No. G1703, Financial Project No. 438170-1-54-01. To extend contract time and to add additional funding (\$538,353.40).
- **Action Taken:**
 - Motion Comm. Hiers motion to approve
 - Second Comm. Hodge
 - Vote Outcome 5-0 passed

16. Approve the agreement between Levy County and the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council to monitor hazardous waste generators located in the County during Fiscal Year 2026 for \$16,500. (Audio 2:04:30)

- **Presenters:** Travis Newsome, Asst Director Solid Waste
- **Discussion:** The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council monitors hazardous waste generators located in the County.
- **Action Taken:**
 - Motion Comm. Meeks motion to approve
 - Second Comm. Hodge
 - Vote Outcome 5-0 passed

PUBLIC COMMENT: *(Audio 2:06)*

- Speaker 1: Kanesha Carnegie (Raleigh)- spoke on concern of land development changes in the area of East Williston at CR 316 and Hwy 27.
- Speaker 2: Terry Witt (Bronson)- inquired as to solid waste department expanding landfill with a new cell and whether it was lined or unlined. BoCC responded that Florida DEP would need to determine that final answer.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS: *(Audio 2:10)*

- Comm. Meeks- mentioned being out of town for future meetings toward the end of November through December. Attended Cedar Key commented on 7-8 buses from the Villages coming to Cedar Key and food was good.
- Comm. Hodge- Attended Cedar Key Seafood Festival and it was well attended and Cedar Key is coming back.
- Comm. Hiers- Attended Cedar Key Seafood Festival. Visited Shell Mound and counted 18 campers and also people in tents. A lot of people are using this parks facility. Commented on about 100 people being at the Big Dock fishing pier and expressed the importance of these places to our community. Encouraged people to support the youth of our county.
- Comm. Mills- nothing to report
- Comm. Kennedy- took action during his report and made a motion to terminate the contract with Levy County Attorney Nicolle Shalley. Comm. Hiers seconded the motion.
 - County manager had questions as to if this needed to be added to the agenda. Discussion ensued and it was determined a motion and a second stands but there is no contract with the County Attorney. HR Director Martin stated, being a regular employee, the BoCC could terminate the County Attorney as she is an at-will employee.
 - After clarification, Comm. Kennedy amended his motion to terminate County Attorney Shalley as an employee of Levy County. Comm. Hiers seconded the amended motion.
 - County Attorney Nicolle Shalley commented on being disappointed in this decision.
 - **Action Taken:**
 - Motion Comm. Kennedy motioned for termination
 - Second Comm. Hiers
 - Vote Outcome 3-2

APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES:

Request to approve county expenditures in the amount of **\$1,167,323.32**.

CHECK NUMBER	156681-156776
FUND	AMOUNT
GENERAL REVENUE	93,201.01
ROAD	42,091.26
SHIP	18,417.61
MOSQUITO CONTROL	113.75
TRANSPORTATION	12,631.30
COURT FACILITIES	679.54
MISC GRANTS	59,417.91
EMS	48,612.93
FIRE	249,908.27
TOURIST DEVELOPMENT	5,212.82
UTILITIES	114.80
BLDG INSPECT & SAFETY	3,156.41
CAPITAL PROJECTS	14,440.11
LANDFILL	196,327.68
TOTAL	\$ 744,325.40
EFT/ACH PAYMENT	\$ 422,997.92
GRAND TOTALS	\$ 1,167,323.32

- **Action Taken:**
 - Motion Comm. Hodge motion to approve
 - Second Comm. Meeks

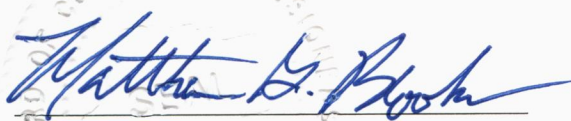
- Vote Outcome 5-0 passed

17. Requesting Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes - Clerk of Court, Matt Brooks

- Regular Meeting July 8, 2025 and July 22, 2025, Budget Meeting held July 22, 2025; Regular Meeting August 5, 2025 and August 19, 2025, Budget Meeting held August 19, 2025; Regular Meeting held September 2, 2025, Special Meeting held September 23, 2025 and September 26, 2025.
 - **Action Taken:**
 - Motion Comm. Kennedy motion
 - Second Comm. Meeks
 - Vote Outcome 5-0 passed
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THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COMMISSION THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 11:47AM

ATTEST:



A blue ink signature of Matt Brooks, written over a faint circular official seal of the Board of County Commissioners, Levy County, Florida.

Clerk of Court, Matt Brooks

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEVY COUNTY, FL



A blue ink signature of Desiree Mills, written over a horizontal line.

Chairman, Desiree Mills