

**REGULAR MEETING
LEVY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JANUARY 6, 2026**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners was held on January 6, 2026 at 9:00 A.M. in the BoCC Meeting Room at the Levy County Government Center.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Tim Hodge called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

INVOCATION: Given by Comm. Hiers

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Comm. Mills

ROLL CALL:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

District 1: Charlie Kennedy, Vice Chairman
District 2: Rock Meeks
District 3: Desiree Mills
District 4: Tim Hodge, Chairman
District 5: Johnny Hiers

ALSO PRESENT:

County Manager – Mary-Ellen Harper
Legal Counsel - NGN, Evan Rosenthal

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

• **Action Taken:**

- Amendments: Comm. Mills motioned to approve as presented.
- Motion Comm. Hiers
- Second
- Vote Outcome 5-0 motion passed

RECOGNITION:

1. EMPLOYEE MILESTONE SERVICE AWARDS

- Lonnie Terry – 20 years of service
- Layce Hallman – 5 years of service
- Christopher Castleberry – 10 years of service
- Clayton Drew – 20 years of service
- Jimmie Jones – 25 years of service
- Michael Miller – 25 years of service
- Willie Strawn – 5 years of service
- Charles Townsend – 20 years of service

2. EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT RECOGNITION

- Jessie Durrance – Levy County Road & Bridge Department Over 41 years of service
- Robert Allen – Levy County Road & Bridge Department Over 27 years of service
- Shelia LeMatty – Levy County Maintenance Department Over 15 years of service

PUBLIC COMMENT: (Audio 12:00)

- **Speaker One:** Carol Anderson (Williston) Levy County is a great place to live and can be better. We need to have a hospital and continue to improve Levy County.

BUSINESS OR INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

3. Approve renovating the current Animal Services Facility at an estimated cost of \$110,000.

(Audio 12:40)

- **Presenter:** Mary-Ellen Harper, County Manager
- **Discussion:** The front half of the Animal Services Office Building was partially renovated last year when it was determined that the walls and ceilings were infested with animal carcasses and feces. The remainder facility can be renovated for approximately \$110,000 and will adequately serve the community. Recent changes to the design of the new cell at the landfill have created a larger buffer between landfill operations and the kennels making this a more viable option than originally anticipated.
- **Public Comment:**
 - Diane Marchand (Williston)- 50 kennels are not going to support future population growth. Animal Control shouldn't have Sheriff's Deputies out at every call and the ordinances need to be completed for animal control.
 - Linda Cooper (Williston)- Has heard nothing about TNR or spay/neuter programs. What added services will be provided with the improvements to this renovation? Maybe animal control should be shut down and turned over to private rescue agencies.
- **Action Taken:**
 - Motion Comm. Mills motioned to approve.
 - Second Comm. Kennedy

- Vote Outcome 5-0 motion passed

4. Approve change order #1 in the amount of \$17,215 for ITB_2025_023 Levy County Government Center Entry Improvements agreement with Payne Construction. The change order will also include a change to the completion time allowing the completion time to start after permits are received. (Audio 29:00)

- **Presenter:** Mary-Ellen Harper, County Manager
- **Discussion:** This change order is to add additional ADA parking spaces in the front of the Government Center and to adjust the time to start once permits are received.
- **Action:**
 - Motion: Comm. Mills motioned to approve.
 - Second: Comm. Meeks
 - Vote Outcome: 5-0 motion passed

5. Approve the Interagency Agreement For Access to and Exchange of Criminal Justice Information between the Levy County Sheriff's Office and Levy County. (Audio 32:20)

- **Presenter:** Mitch Harrell – Public Safety Director
- **Discussion:** This will allow LCDPS to maintain computer aided dispatch (CAD) access for response purposes.
- **Action:**
 - Motion: Comm. Hiers motioned to approve.
 - Second: Comm. Meeks
 - Vote Outcome: 5-0 motion passed

6. Approve budget amendment re-appropriating \$400,000 from Reserves for Contingency to a Transfer Out to the Sheriff to fund vehicle purchases. (Audio 33:58)

- **Presenter:** Jason Rivera, Finance & Administration Director
- **Discussion:** The Sheriff ordered replacement vehicles in FY25 with the expectation that delivery would occur prior to September 30, 2025. Due to vendor delays, the vehicles were not delivered before fiscal year-end. Pursuant to section 218.36, Florida Statutes, Constitutional Officers are required to remit any unexpended budgeted funds to the Board of County Commissioners by October 31 of each year. Because the vehicles had not yet been delivered, the Sheriff was required to remit the funds necessary to pay for the vehicles. At the time the FY26 budget was developed, the vehicles were still anticipated to be delivered prior to October 1, 2025; therefore, the associated costs were not included in the Sheriff's FY26 budget request. This budget amendment re-appropriates \$400,000 from Reserves for Contingencies to cover the cost of the

replacement vehicles upon delivery. This cost is offset by the Sheriff's remitted funds for FY25, which exceed this amount.

- **Action:**

- Motion: Comm. Mills motioned to approve.
- Second: Comm. Meeks
- Vote Outcome: 5-0 motion passed

- **Comm. Meeks made a motion to hear an Emergency Non-Agenda item from Sheriff Bobby McCallum. Seconded by Comm. Hiers. Vote was 5-0 and passes to add this item to the agenda.**

NON-AGENDA ITEM: Sheriff Bobby McCallum presents issues

- **Presenter:** Col. Mike Sheffield

- **Discussion:** Added as emergency due to urgent timeline. 38-year-old facility facing deteriorating pumps/valves (18-inch lines collapsing, discovered during \$12–13k pump repair). Phased plan: Heating now (cold season), cooling closer to summer. Delays could double costs, require shutdowns/inmate moves. Replaces circulation systems to prevent chiller failure (hundreds of thousands in potential damage). Two quotes obtained; sheriff to procure under own guidelines for speed (vs. county bidding). Background on ongoing major repairs in the past 12–14 months. Photos shown of issues. No line replacements beyond immediate fixes.

- **Action:**

- Motion: Comm. Mills motioned to approve.
- Second: Comm. Kennedy
- Vote Outcome: 5-0 motion passed

7. Approve the Road Department Equipment Purchase Plan FY26. (Audio 46:38)

- **Presenter:** Donald Clifton, Road Department Director

- **Discussion:** If the BOCC approves this plan, \$896,963.83 can be moved from Reserves for Contingency from either 301-Capital Projects & Equipment Restoration Fund, or 363 - Road Improvement & Restoration Fund. The Plan identifies and prioritizes critical equipment needed to support countywide roadway maintenance operations, with the goal of expanding maintenance capacity, improving response times, and enhancing the safety, efficiency, and reliability of services. Proposed purchases are organized by operational priority and include unit quantities, equipment descriptions, estimated costs, and operational justifications to ensure responsible and effective use of county resources.

- Levy County Road Department Equipment Purchase Plan FY26 can be found at:

<https://meetings.municode.com/d/f?u=https://mccmeetings.blob.core.usgovcloudapi.net/levyfl-pu>

[bu/MEET-Packet-0c9aaaf7824041d6a166dcfa27cb6be6.pdf&n=AgendaPacket-Regular%20Meeting-January%206,%202026%209.00%20AM.pdf \(PAGES 21-28\)](#)

- **Public Comment:**
 - Linda Cooper (Williston) Would like to see cost vs purchase, lease and contract out before spending this amount of money. I don't know what would be best without further analysis.
- **Action:**
 - Motion: Comm. Mills motioned to approve.
 - Second: Comm. Kennedy
 - Vote Outcome: 5-0 motion passed

PUBLIC COMMENTS: **NONE**

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS: *(Audio 1:13:09)*

- Recognition of aging county facilities (jail, Government Center) and the need for long-term planning to avoid massive future costs.
- Optimism about recent improvements, especially in the Road Department with new leadership and equipment investments.
- Awareness of fiscal pressures (property taxes, state mandates, growth).
- Appreciation for staff efforts and board collaboration.
- Forward-looking hope for better services and citizen satisfaction in 2026 despite challenges.

Requesting Approval of Expenditures:

- Chairman Hodge requested approval of expenditures in the amount of \$3,550,104.88.
- **Action:**
 - Motion: Comm. Kennedy motioned to approve.
 - Second: Comm. Meeks
 - Vote Outcome: 5-0 motion passed

ADJOURNMENT: 9:29AM

Minutes Submitted by: Matt Brooks, Clerk of Court & Comptroller

Date Submitted: 1/6/2026