

**REGULAR MEETING
LEVY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
November 24, 2025**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners was held on November 24, 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. Kennedy

ROLL CALL:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

Absent- Comm. Rock Meeks

ALSO PRESENT:

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Action Taken:

- Amendments: Comm. Kennedy wanted to add Item #9 for additional Comp Plan meeting and timing.
- Motion Comm. Hodge motioned to approve
- Second Comm. Hiers
- Vote Outcome 4-0 motion passes

1. To recognize the BoCC Divisions that donated the most food to the 2025 Tri-County Resources Food Drive. (Audio 4:30)

- **Presenter:** Mary-Ellen Harper, County Manager
- **Discussion:** Tri-County Community Resources Board Chair Lewrissa Johns will attend the BoCC Meeting to recognize the two top donating Divisions. 1,215 non-perishable items donated by BoCC Staff, Development Services & Landfill were two departments that donated the most. Lewrissa Johns addressed BoCC and the public to thank Levy County Employees and explain that this donation helps so much especially during the holidays.

RECOGNIZE ELECTED OFFICIALS: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT: (Audio 9:14)

- Speaker One:** Chelsea Bower (Gainesville) serves as Executive Director of Humane Society of North Central Florida. Complimented Brandi Cannon's positive performance for Levy County Animal Services (LCAS) and improving animal care in Levy County. Wants people to use their voice and social media platform for good and promote LCAS.

- **Speaker Two:** Stephanie Buxton (Bronson) resident complimenting LCAS and Brandi Cannon's work and the improvement as a "No-Kill Shelter". Wanted to make sure people knew that it was people that are the problem with animal welfare and not LCAS. People need to take better care of their own animals and stop slandering LCAS.
- **Speaker Three:** Carol Tchebanoff (Williston Animal Group President) appreciates Brandi Cannon and LCAS for the improvements over the past few years. Made a statement that she approached the people slandering Brandi online and spreading misinformation but stated the individuals claimed they won't stop.

Business or Informational Items

2. To approve Resolution Number 2025-68: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING A FINAL CUMULATIVE BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2024-25 BUDGET; PROVIDING CERTAIN FINDINGS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

(Audio 19:55)

- **Presenter:** Matt Brooks, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller
- **Discussion:** This item is to close out the previous year's finances and budget. The State of Florida Constitution 129.06 ensures the budget aligns with year-end financial reality. Exhibit A in the back up shows the final changes.
- **Action Taken:**
 - Motion Comm. Hodge motioned to approve
 - Second Comm. Kennedy
 - Vote Outcome 4-0 motion passes

3. Adopt Resolution 2025-69: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA ADOPTING A TRANSPORTATION PLAN FOR THE TRANSPORT OF INDIVIDUALS UNDER CHAPTER 394, PART I, FLORIDA STATUTES, KNOWN AS THE FLORIDA MENTAL HEALTH ACT, A/K/A THE BAKER ACT, AND UNDER CHAPTER 397, FLORIDA STATUTES, KNOWN AS THE HAL S. MARCHMAN ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG SERVICES ACT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

(Audio 21:55)

- **Presenter:** Mary-Ellen Harper, County Manager
- **Discussion:** In accordance with Chapter 394, Part 1, Florida Statutes, the Florida Mental Health Act or the Baker Act, Chapter 397, Florida Statutes, the Hal S. Marchman Alcohol and Other Drug Services Act, and Section 394.462, Florida Statutes, the Levy County Behavioral Health Plan (sometimes herein the "Transportation Plan" or "Plan") has been developed to organize a centralized system for acute care services for Levy County, Florida ("County").
- Plan is unchanged from previous years.
- **Action Taken:**
 - Motion Comm. Kennedy motioned to approve
 - Second Comm. Hodge
 - Vote Outcome 4-0 motion passes

4. Approve the job description for the County Attorney and set the salary range. *(Audio 23:04)*

- **Presenter:** Mary-Ellen Harper, County Manager
- **Discussion:** The BoCC terminated the employment of the County Attorney on October 21, 2025. The current job description is included for the Board's review and possible modification.
- Summary the Budgeted Cost of the Former County Attorney \$172,432.00 NO FRS Senior Management Contribution Life Insurance: \$44.40 per year Health Insurance: \$13,932.10 per year FICA/Med Withholding: \$13,191.05 per year TOTAL: \$199,599.55
- **Action Taken:**
 - BoCC consensus given for staff to gather details on all options and bring back how to proceed for advertising. BoCC to collect their notes and questions for further discussion at a future meeting.

5. To set a date for commissioners to provide written feedback to the County Manager as to services to be included in the solicitation for a County Attorney or to set a date for a Workshop for all commissioners to work together to reach consensus on solicitation terms. (Audio 26:55)

- **Presenter:** Mary-Ellen Harper, County Manager
- **Discussion:** December 2 meeting was set as meeting to further discuss desire of BoCC to go out for RFP on outside counsel or advertise for a staff attorney or possibly do both. Commissioners commented on possibly using Gadsden County's RFP as a template for going out for proposals.
- **Action Taken:** NONE

6. Amend the FY26 budget to include funding for the new roof of the Development Services building. (Audio 32:30)

- **Presenter:** Jason Rivera, Director, Finance and Administration
- **Discussion:** \$170,000 will be re-appropriated from Reserves for Contingencies in the Capital Fund. The building shared by the Building Department and Code Enforcement requires a roof replacement. The Building Department can use its dedicated funding sources to cover its share of the cost. However, because the remainder of the building is used by other BoCC Departments, Permit Fees cannot be used to fund that portion. This amendment reallocates funding from Reserves for Contingency within the Capital Fund to cover the remaining cost of the roof replacement.
- **Action Taken:**
 - Motion Comm. Kennedy motioned to approve
 - Second Comm. Hodge
 - Vote Outcome 4-0 motion passes

7. Amend the FY26 budget to include funding for the new roof of the Development Services building. (Audio 34:05)

- **Presenter:** Dave Banton, Code Enforcement Manager
- **Discussion:** Approve the purchase of a 2023 Toyota Truck with 4-wheel drive from the Building Department for \$27,000. The 2014 Ford Escape currently used by Code Enforcement has 73,840 miles and lacks 4-wheel drive. The continued development in Levy County has required Code Enforcement to navigate off the beaten path to areas of the county that require 4-wheel drive to access. This has become a major safety issue and limits the ability of one Code Enforcement Officer to investigate certain complaints. \$60,000 was budgeted in the current fiscal year for Code Enforcement to purchase a new vehicle, however purchasing this vehicle used from the Building Department is a more cost-efficient option.
- **Action Taken:**
 - Motion Comm. Hiers motioned to approve
 - Second Comm. Hodge
 - Vote Outcome 4-0 motion passes

8. Approve the Levy County Board of County Commissioners Customer Addendum to the Verizon Connect and Sourcewell service cooperative, agreement (Contract #020221-NWF) in the amount of \$44,340 for Verizon Connect to provide GPS tracking of BoCC Vehicles. (Audio 35:45)

- **Presenter:** Jessie Robinson, Fleet Director
- **Discussion:** \$44,340 annually; each department will pay for tracking of its own vehicles. 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. Trackers will go on county vehicles and certain equipment where necessary.
- **Action Taken:**
 - Motion Comm. Hiers motioned to approve
 - Second Comm. Kennedy
 - Vote Outcome 4-0 motion passes

9. Comm. Kennedy Asked for Discussion on Added Night Comprehensive Planning Meeting for the Public to Have Better Access and Participation (Audio 37:35)

- **Presenter:** Comm. Kennedy, Amended Agenda Item
- **Discussion:** Discussion took place on date and time for the added meeting. County Manager recommendation was made to try a night meeting and see what kind of response is given. Comm. Hiers stated he has had quite a few people asking for a night meeting for these workshops.
- **Action Taken:** Consensus was reached and staff was directed to schedule a night meeting for the Comprehensive Planning Workshop in December.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS: (Audio: 43:45)

- Comm. Johnny Hiers gave a SHIP overview on a few projects that had gotten done this year. Mentioned Chiefland football making it to the playoffs and supporting them against Hawthorne.
- Comm. Hodge wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. Asked Fleet Director Jessie Robinson about the recent auction of surplus items that sold. A little over \$120,000 was returned to the general fund of the county from Weeks' Auction. Comm. Hodge would like to see the funding go to purchase more equipment for another limb trimming crew.
- Comm. Kennedy wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.
- Madam Chair Mills attended the Governor's Press Conference where Levy County was awarded funding for job creation and economic development. She thanked Tisha Whitehurst and the City of Chiefland for getting this completed. The check was for \$1.5 million from Governor DeSantis. Met with Secretary of Commerce Alex Pelley to preview some job growth in the agriculture sector. Secretary Pelley stated there would be more funding coming for Levy County. The front entryway of Levy County Government Center will see an update in the coming months. Please be patient as this important upgrade to safety and ADA accessibility takes place. Maintenance is also beginning to pressure wash and clean the government center soon.

Requesting Approval of Expenditures:

Madam Chair Mills requested approval of expenditures in the amount of **\$338,568.50**.

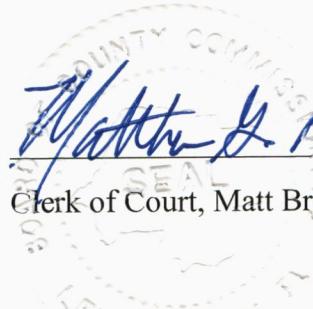
PAYMENT NUMBER	156876-156938/371-382
FUND	AMOUNT
GENERAL REVENUE	228,711.32
ROAD	68,066.89
MOSQUITO CONTROL	36.00
COURT TECH/CRIM PREV	14,642.12
TRANSPORTATION	2,374.59
COURT FACILITIES	1,139.31
MISC GRANTS	1,389.63
EMS	9,896.69
FIRE	537.90
TOURIST DEVELOPMENT	1,502.49
UTILITIES	1,444.21
ADD COURT COSTS	3,125.97
BLDG INSPECT & SAFETY	25.97
CAPITAL PROJECTS	2,591.00
LANDFILL	3,084.41
TOTAL	\$ 338,568.50

Action Taken:

- o Motion Comm. Hodge motioned to approve
- o Second Comm. Kennedy
- o Vote Outcome 4-0 approved

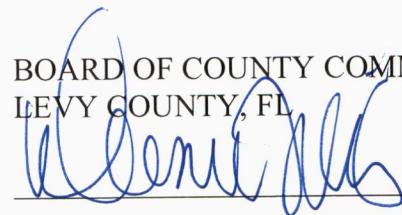
**BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COMMISSION THE MEETING
WAS ADJOURNED AT 9:53AM**

ATTEST:


Matt G. Brooks

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: 11/24/2025