

**REGULAR MEETING
LEVY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AUGUST 5, 2025**

MINUTES

The Regular Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners was held on August 5, 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. Hiers

ROLL CALL:

COMMISSIONERSPRESENT:

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 or Amendments
 - Motion Comm. Hodge
 - Second Comm. Meeks
 - Vote Outcome 5-0

ELECTED OFFICIALS: *(Audio 4:53)*

No comment from present Elected Officials or Municipalities

PUBLIC COMMENT: *(Audio 6:45)*

- Speakers:
 - Jeff Hardison- (Chiefland): Made brief statement on bloggers not being journalists.
 - Alan Wills- (Williston): Thanked attorney for help on tax issue. Inquired as to County being in compliance with the State with Comprehensive Plan. Chair Mills, confirmed the County is in compliance.
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Business or Informational Items

1. Requesting Approval of Resolution 2025-54, Amending Sheriff's Final Budget For Receipt of Additional Revenue *(Audio 9:41 & 11:25)*

- **Presenter:** Bobby McCallum, Sheriff & Tammy Meadows, Finance Director, Sheriff's Office
- **Discussion:** Amending the Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 In The Amount Of \$297,203 Due To Receipt of Additional Revenue From Miscellaneous Sources. Request action to increase budget to cover expenses incurred by the Sheriff's Office for personnel & operating expenses

- **Action Taken:**
 - Motion Comm. Hiers
 - Second Comm. Hodge
 - Vote Outcome 5-0

** First Motion was presented without reading Resolution into the record: Attorney Shalley advised the proper procedure is to read the Resolution title into the record so that it is clear the Board is adopting the Resolution and then the resolution amends the budget. Sheriff McCallum restated that he is requesting the Commission to adopt Resolution 2025-54 Motion was restated and re-voted on.

2. Requesting Approval of Resolution 2025-53, Amending Sheriff's Final Budget For Receipt of Additional Revenue *(Audio 12:25)*

- **Presenter:** Bobby McCallum, Sheriff & Tammy Meadows, Finance Director, Sheriff's Office
- **Discussion:** Amending The Final Budget For Fiscal Year 2024-2025 In The Amount Of \$62,594 Due To Receipt Of Additional Revenue From The State For An Increase In Salaries For Law Enforcement And Corrections In Fiscally Constrained Counties. Request action due to additional grant funds awarded to provide law enforcement salary assistance for Levy County Sheriff's Office.
- **Action Taken:**
 - Motion Comm. Kennedy
 - Second Comm. Hodge
 - Vote Outcome 5-0

3. Presentation on the Waccasassa Water and Wastewater Cooperative (W3C) Project. *(Audio 14:01)*

- **Presenter:** Mary-Ellen Harper, County Manager
- **Discussion:** Informational Session on W3C (Waccasassa Water and Wastewater Cooperative) (W3C). W3C is a member owned whole sale water and wastewater cooperative which has come together to form an independent Special District. Mission is to provide total water production and total wastewater production treatment and transmission. Three main areas of focus is Cedar Key, Otter Creek and Town of Bronson. Project is wanting to build a brand new wastewater plant in Bronson and about 35 miles of force main to deliver wastewater from Cedar Key back to Bronson and water main to distribute water from Bronson back down to Cedar Key stopping at Otter Creek along the way. This is a wholesale enterprise funds. Requesting support from the Commission was we move towards appropriations and grant funding. Over the next several month they will begin drilling a new well in Bronson to test the water quality and to understand the hydrology on site to make sure all the assumptions are true and validated.
- **Speaker:**
 - Robert Beltran- Dewberry Engineering- Lakeland, Florida
 - Rachel Meeks- Bronson, Florida- Chair
 - Sue Colson- Cedar Key, Florida- Board Member
 - Norm Fugate- Fugate & Fugate Law (W3C Legal Representative)
 - Diana Garte (Morriston)
 - Robbie Blake (Williston)
 - Terry Witt (Bronson)
 - James Freeman (Williston)
 - Alan Wills (Williston)
 - Emily Caey (Gulf Hammock)
 - Terri Withrow (Gulf Hammock)
- **Action Taken:** Presentation Only

4. Approval to the first amendment to the agreement for continuing services between Levy County and Baxter & Woodman, Inc. (Audio 1:18:34)

- **Presenter:** Mary-Ellen Harper, County Manager
- **Discussion:** Toco Engineering, LLC merged with Baxter & Woodman, Inc. and Baxter Woodman has requested the County consent to assignment of the Agreement to Baxter & Woodman, Inc., d/b/a Toco Engineering, a Baxter & Woodman Company, as the successor entity to Toco Engineering, LLC.
 - Only change to agreement is the company name change.
- **Action Taken:**
 - Motion Comm. Hodge
 - Second Comm. Hiers
 - Vote Outcome 5-0

5. Third Quarter Fiscal Year Quarterly Reports for April 1 – June 30, 2025. (Audio 1:19:40)

- **Presenter:** Mary-Ellen Harper, County Manager
- **Discussion:** Receive reports from Departments on Q3.
- BoCC held its annual Flag Day Ceremony on Friday, June 13, 2025.
- Tisha Whitehurst has been selected as Levy County's new Division Director of Economic Development and Tourism. The Tourism Manager position has been posted.
- Jessie Durrance has submitted his letter of retirement. Last working day is October 31st.

6. Requesting the Levy County Board of County Commissioners to decline to serve as the coordinating unit of government for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant. (Audio 1:24:33)

- **Presenter:** Mary-Ellen Harper, County Manager
- **Discussion:** This grant has historically funded equipment for the municipal police departments in Levy County. If the BoCC declines to serve as the coordinating unit of government for this grant, the Chair would sign the Certificate and it would get sent to FDLE, who would then request the governing body of each municipality, in descending order of population, serve as the coordinating unit of government. This would allow the municipalities to manage their own grants.
- **Action Taken:**
 - Motion Comm. Hodge
 - Second Comm. Kennedy
 - Vote Outcome 5-0

7. Presentation on the Hurricane Housing Recovery Program (HHRP-Idalia) by Rebuilding Together North Central Florida Inc. (Audio 1:25:50)

- **Presenter:** Marlon Gayle, Housing Manager
- **Discussion:** Levy County received \$1.267 million to assist residents affected by Hurricane Idalia. The County entered into an agreement with Rebuilding Together NFC Inc. to administer a significant portion of these funds (\$600,000). This amount was recently increased to \$1 million and it was deemed prudent to provide an update on the administration of the program.

- Program currently has 3 project in progress. Two (2) in Inglis and one (1) project in Chiefland. Outreach efforts within Levy County is on-going with 25 current applications.
- **Speakers:**
 - Julie Emminger- [Re]Pair Program Manager
 - Rd Bonnaghan- [Re]Pair Executive Director
- **Action Taken:**
 - Presentation Only.

8. Requesting Approval of ORDINANCE 2025-9; AN ORDINANCE OF LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA RELATING TO FEES, RATES, AND CHARGES(Audio 1:55:37)

- **Presenter:** Bo Cox, Development Services Director
- **Discussion:** Florida Law authorizes counties to adopt reasonable fees, rates and charges for various county services and functions that are requested by and of benefit to private persons/entities.
- **Action Taken:**
 - Motion Comm. Kennedy
 - Second Comm. Hiers
 - Vote Outcome 5-0

9. Requesting Approval of RESOLUTION NUMBER 2025-45. A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING INTERIM PLAT REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS TO COMPLY WITH SENATE BILL NO. 784 (2025) (Audio 1:58:07)

- **Presenter:** Bo Cox, Development Services Director
- **Discussion:** Senate Bill No. 784 (2025) was signed into law by the Governor and became effective on July 1, 2025, it requires that all plats and replats must be “administratively approved and no further action or approval by the governing body of a county . . . is required” and further the “governing body of the county . . . shall designate, by ordinance or resolution, an administrative authority to receive, review, and process” plats, “including designating an administrative official responsible for approving, approving with conditions, or denying the proposed plat.” This Resolution is adopted for the purpose of providing interim plat review and approval processes that comply with SB 784 until such time as the County can reasonably undertake review and prepare and adopt ordinance(s) to update the entirety of its Platting processes and requirements contained in Article XI of Chapter 50 of the County Code of Ordinances.
 - Comm. Hiers stated that this is a State mandated process.
- **Action Taken:**
 - Motion Comm. Hodge
 - Second Comm. Kennedy
 - Vote Outcome 5-0

10. Requesting the Levy County Board of County Commissioners to receive and accept the Professional Services Committee ranking of the firms for RFP_2025_010- Levy County Comprehensive Plan Update 2050, direct the County Manager (or her designee) to negotiate with the proposers in ranked order, and authorize the County Manager to sign the agreement subject to approval by the County Attorney as to form and legal sufficiency. (Audio 2:00:00)

Resolution will ratify the grant agreement 25PLN46 Levy County Adaptation Plan that follows the Vulnerability Assessment in the Resilient Florida Program.

- **Action Taken:** Motion adopting Resolution Number 2025-46.
 - Motion Comm. Hiers
 - Second Comm. Kennedy
 - Vote Outcome 5-0

PUBLIC COMMENT: (2:18:00)

- Frank Donald (Williston) - Owner of property next to Frogs BBQ in Williston, made Board aware of permitting issue.

Comm. Reports

- **Comm. Meeks:**
 - Nothing to report.
- **Comm. Kennedy:**
 - Mary-Ellen, County Manager, is setting up meetings with SWMD to allow the citizens to discuss the new flood maps.
- **Comm. Hiers:**
 - Nothing to report.
- **Madam Chair Mills:**
 - Talking with staff at the Road Department they are expressed working with Ryan Asmus' help in the projects they are involved in.
- **Comm. Hodge:**
 - Nothing to report.

Requesting Approval of Expenditures:

- Madam Chair Mills requested approval of expenditures in the amount of \$ 3,046,583.32.
- **Action Taken:**
 - Motion Comm. Meeks
 - Second Comm. Hodge
 - Vote Outcome 5-0

Requesting Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

- **Date of Previous Meeting:** March 25 Meeting Minutes, April 22 Budget Meeting, May 13 Special Meeting
- **Action Taken:**
 - Motion Comm. Hodge
 - Second Comm. Kennedy
 - Vote Outcome 5-0

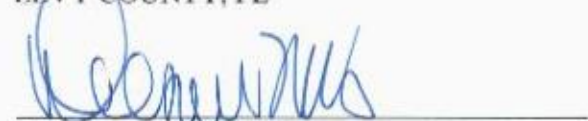
Minutes Submitted by: Matt Brooks, Clerk of Court & Comptroller
Date Submitted: 8/05/2025

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COMMISSION, THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:27 A.M.

ATTEST:


Clerk of Court, Matt Brooks

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEVY COUNTY, FL**


Chairman, Desiree Mills