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## Levy County constitutional officers take the oath of office



**(from left) Levy County Supervisor of Elections Tammy Jones, Tax Collector Linda Fugate, County Court Judge J.T. 'Tim' Browning, County Clerk Danny Shipp, Sheriff Robert 'Bobby' McCallum Jr. and Property Appraiser Osborn 'Oz' Barker pause after the ceremony.**

**Story, Photos and Video By Jeff M. Hardison © Jan. 3, 2017 at 8:07 p.m.**

**BRONSON** – Five constitutional officers of Levy County government on Tuesday morning (Jan. 3) took the oath office to serve the residents and visitors of Levy County, and to support, protect and defend the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Florida.



**Levy County Court Judge J.T. 'Tim' Browning opens the ceremony Tuesday morning (Jan. 3).**

Levy County Court Judge J.T. "Tim" Browning administered the oath of office to Levy County Property Appraiser Osborn "Oz" Barker, Tax Collector Linda Fugate, Supervisor of Elections Tammy Jones,

Sheriff Robert "Bobby" McCallum Jr. and Clerk of the Court Danny Shipp.

The judge administered the oaths individually, ladies first and alphabetically.

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He thanked the men and women who accepted the mantle of responsibility to which they were elected, and he noted his appreciation for the families of these public servants. He understands that many of those family members give of their time and talents too, as a result of these office-holders' choice to serve the people.

After administering the oath of office, Judge Browning mentioned to the audience that reciting the oath is more difficult than a person can imagine.

Judge Browning told the audience that during his investiture in 2010, he was surprised at how challenging it is to remember what the person is saying – so as to repeat it correctly after them.

After the five county officers took their oaths, Supervisor of Elections Jones presented Judge Browning with a plaque.

The judge led the Levy County Canvassing Board. That board is responsible as a separate body to assure the accuracy of the votes counted during elections.

In recognition of all of his service as the chairman of the Canvassing Board, Jones said, and for all that Judge Browning has done for that board, she showed his name is on the plaque for 2012, 2014 and 2016.

There are more spots on the plaque, Jones said, adding that she hopes Judge Browning will remain on the Canvassing Board as its chairman to fill those spaces, starting with the next space from the elections in 2018.



**Levy County Supervisor of Elections Tammy Jones prepares to present the plaque.**



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**The plaque to the judge shows it is for appreciation of his work as the chairman of the Canvassing Board.**



The judge thanked the supervisor of elections for the thoughtful gesture. He mentioned for everyone that it was through the tutelage of Supervisor of Elections Jones that the Canvassing Board was able to complete its mission properly.

Judge Browning said that while some Canvassing Boards may see their responsibilities as being a drag, the members of the Levy County Canvassing Board enjoyed their tour of duty – including by the grilling of steaks.