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Surveillance cameras approved for purchase 4-1



Levy County Commission Chairman John Meeks

Story and Photos By Jeff M. Hardison © May 4, 2017 at 4:47 p.m.

BRONSON -- With a female employee of Levy County having been chased and threatened by a man at Blue Springs Park, Levy County Parks and Recreation Director Matt Weldon sought and received Tuesday (May 2) a 4-1 vote of approval to add eight surveillance cameras at a cost of \$2,760 to help reduce the danger to the employees and visitors.

That unidentified man had become irate over a volleyball game at the park and was yelling curse words, Weldon said. When the park employee explained to the man that language is not permitted, he became enraged and directed his verbal abuse at the employee, who fled to the office.

The offender, Weldon said, had the insight to tell the woman not to look at him before he fled. Therefore, she could not identify the man who verbally assaulted her. If there were cameras, then the incident would be recorded.

There are methods in place to capture potential camera thieves as well, according to conversation at the meeting.

Commission Chairman John Meeks agreed that buying the cameras, he just felt that the county should have sought bids. Therefore he cast the lone dissenting vote. Chairman Meeks said Ace Hardware in Bronson uses surveillance cameras to help reduce inventory loss, and he believes the county could have bought the needed equipment at a lower price.

Weldon said he used the vendor that provides cameras in the courthouse.

Another problem Weldon mentioned is that visitors sneak alcoholic beverages into the park.

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Levy County Commissioner Rock Meeks



Levy County Commissioner Matt Brooks

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Levy County Commissioner Lilly Rooks



Levy County Commissioner Mike Joyner

Some visitors complained that diaper bags were being searched, however alcohol was found concealed in those bags. When searches of containers being brought into the park were conducted, the number of empty beer cans and other alcoholic beverage containers was significantly reduced, he said.

On a motion by County Commissioner Mike Joyner, seconded by Commissioner Rock Meeks, the County Commission approved the request to buy the cameras 4-1.

Commission Chairman John Meeks was the only dissenting vote.