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County applies for road funding



Levy County Road Department Administrative Manager Alice LaLonde speaks to the County Commission.

Story and Photos By Jeff M. Hardison © Dec. 6, 2017 at 8:47 p.m.

LEVY COUNTY -- Ambulance riders may feel a bit less pain on one stretch of road in the future thanks to action by five members of the Levy County Board of County Commissioners on Tuesday.

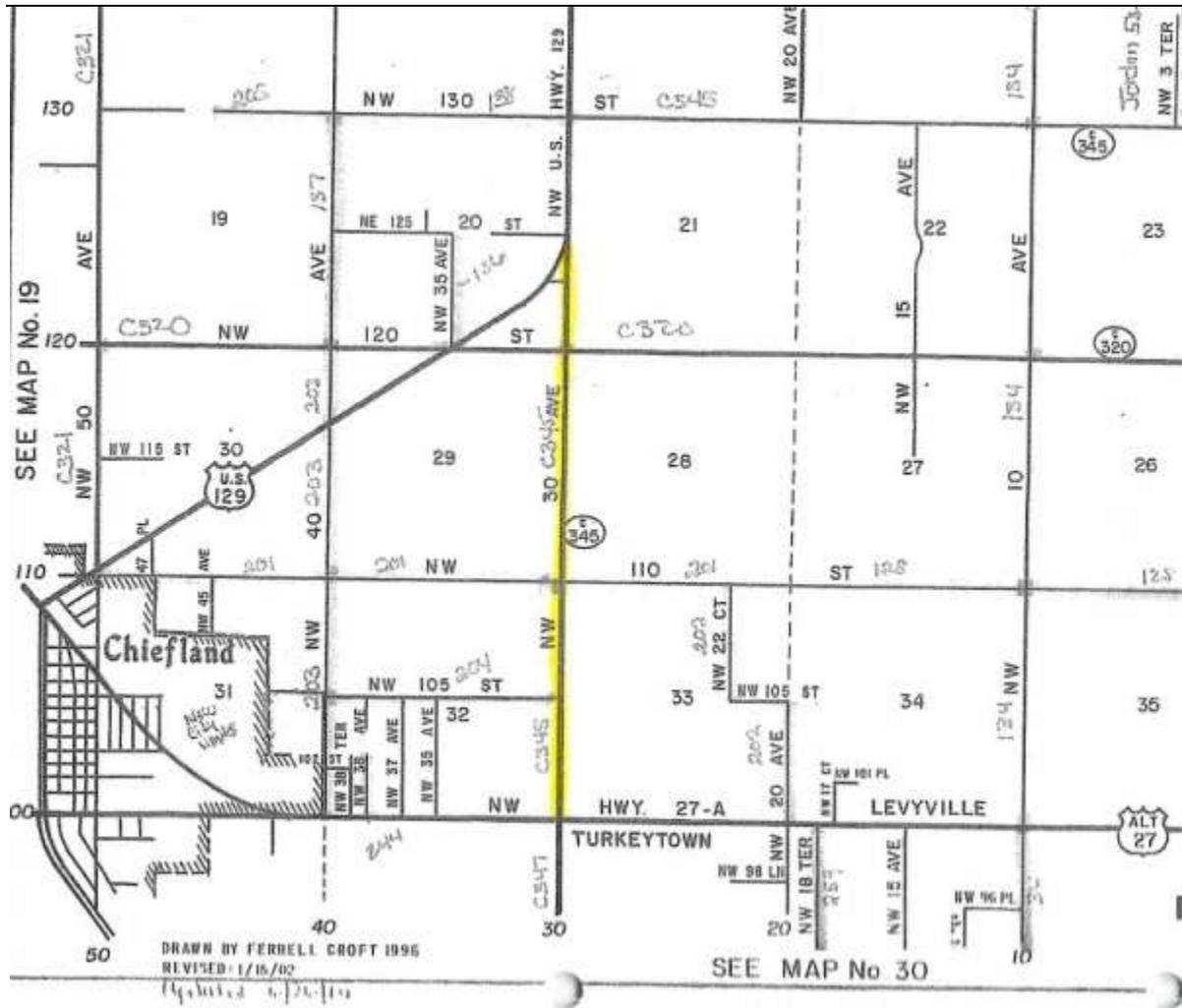
Some people call the stretch of Levy County Road 347 between U.S. Highway 19 and U.S. Alt 27 "Turkey Town Road." In fact that is the more traditional name; however, a more recent name for that part of that road is "Coffee Road," because everyone knows there are too many bumps for a passenger in a vehicle to hazard drinking coffee.

In fact, there is a rural legend that Levy County Department of Public Safety ambulances cannot transport some patients down that part of the road because the bumps can be life-threatening.

Levy County Road Department Administrative Manager Alice LaLonde requested that the County Commission approve a set of Small County Outreach Program (SCOP) and Small County Road Assistance Program (SCRAP) grants.

The four miles of CR 347 Turkey Town Road construction is estimated at a cost of about \$2.7 million.

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In this photo, the entire County Commission is seen. They are from left County Commissioner Rock Meeks, County Commissioner Matt Brooks, County Commission Chairman John Meeks, County Commissioner Lilly Rooks and County Commission Vice Chairman Mike Joyner. As a result of a vote on Tuesday, County Commission Chairman John Meeks was reelected to that post. County Commissioner Mike Joyner is now the Vice Chairman. Commissioner Rock Meeks and Commissioner Lilly Rooks are up for reelection as commissioners in 2018.

In other news from the County Commission meeting on Tuesday, the County Commission unanimously approved a request from Public Safety Director Mitch Harrell to spend about \$600 per-person to send paramedics to Baltimore. There, the medical professionals will be instructed in advanced methods of opening airways on patients.

Harrell said practicing on mannequins is adequate, but in this advanced class the paramedics will be using corpses and they will be under the direction of doctors. The only time when the medics see this level of practice is when they are in an emergency life and death setting.

Chief Harrell said he believes this is money that is well spent on training.

Another unanimous approval was for the county to spend \$326,946 to get the same amount in a grant application to help fund Levy County Transit.

Transit Director Connie Conley also received approval to accept a 100 percent grant for a \$76,019 new bus that is 23-feet long. This new transit vehicle replaces one that was lost in a crash recently. It has 14 passenger seats and two wheelchair spaces.