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Levy County Solid Waste leader seeks grant, saves money



Levy County Solid Waste Director Rod Hastings speaks about improving the department's communication methods to help the public know more about recycling and other aspects of proper solid waste disposal in Levy County.

Story and Photos

By Jeff M. Hardison © Feb. 22, 2018 at 9:18 a.m.

BRONSON -- Rod Hastings, the administrative director of Levy County Solid Waste, found a 100 percent set of approvals for his requests of the Levy County Board of County Commissioners on Tuesday morning (Feb. 20).

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Levy County Commission Vice Chairman Mike Joyner



Levy County Commissioner Lilly Rooks

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Levy County Commission Chairman John Meeks



Levy County Commissioner Matt Brooks

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Levy County Commissioner Rock Meeks

The first request was for the acceptance of \$90,909 grant from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for state assistance to the county through a Small County Consolidated Grant Agreement. On a motion by County Commissioner Lilly Rooks, seconded by County Commissioner Rock Meeks, there was a 5-0 vote of approval.

The second request was for a budget amendment from the previous fiscal year. That met with 5-0 positive vote on a Rooks'-Meeks' motion,

Two purchase requests were combined into a motion made by Commission Vice Chairman Mike Joyner, seconded by County Commissioner Matt Brooks. Hastings' initial requests on both purchases were revised that day, because he found better deals.

The first request was for the replacement of two balers. The balers are used to package cardboard and plastic for recycling. The initial price quoted for consideration was \$11,450 each which would have been \$22,900 total. Hastings found comparable balers at \$9,170 each, for a total cost of \$18,340. He saved the county \$4,560 there.

The second request was for four tires for a Caterpillar Loader at a cost of \$26,320. He found the same tires, installed, at a price of \$23,000. He saved the county \$3,320 there.

The combined savings to the county on those purchases was \$7,880.

Hastings said he sees 2018 as a good year for the Solid Waste Department.

Third graders throughout Levy County stand the potential of competing for a slide or something built from recycled material, he said.

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The Facebook page for the Solid Waste Department shows a potential for updating, he said, to show the people of Levy County where recycling trailers that are being misused by people putting household garbage in them, rather than the proper recyclable material, will be removed.

County Commission Chairman John Meeks asked Hastings to add a map on the Facebook page, because some Levy County residents might want that aid to find the place where they can take their household garbage. This is also the location for Levy County Animal Services.

There was one complaint by a person in the audience on Tuesday morning who said her friend cannot recycle glass in Levy County any more. Recycling glass is not happening all over the nation, because it is cheaper to create new glass rather than to recycle old glass, Hastings explained.

The Levy County Solid Waste Transfer Station still accepts household garbage at 75-cents per bag. People who formerly recycled glass are advised to put it in with the other garbage.

Residents of the city of Williston were recently informed that Waste Pro no longer accepts glass as a separated recyclable item because the Levy County Solid Waste Transfer Station quit accepting it as of Oct. 1, 2017.

Waste Pro accommodated customers as best as it could for as long as possible beyond that stoppage date, thanks to the cooperative efforts of the Levy County Solid Waste Department, Williston City Manager Scott Lippmann and the Williston City Council.

IN OTHER NEWS

In other news from the meeting, Brigitte Smith, a Republican of Marion County announced she plans to run for the Florida House of Representatives, District 22 seat.

Smith notes that she is a nurse, a veteran and a farmer.

State Rep. Charlie Stone (R-Ocala, Dist. 22) currently holds that seat and he intends to seek reelection.



Candidate for Florida House of Representatives District 22 Brigitte Smith, a Republican, speaks to the people at the County Commission meeting on Tuesday (Feb. 20). State Rep. Charlie Stone (R-Ocala) is seeking reelection to that seat too. So far, these are the two candidates who have

announced their intention to run for election in that race.

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