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**Levy County agrees to accept donated dredged material from Cedar Key Marina Basin;
*Frog's Pad BBQ seeks to sell alcoholic beverages***



Levy County Deputy Clerk Mandy Waters shows people to raise their right hands as they affirm their intent to state the truth if they give testimony during three public hearings on Monday morning in Bronson.

Story and Photos

By Jeff M. Hardison © July 3, 2018 at 9:18 p.m.

BRONSON -- By a 5-0 vote Monday morning (July 2), the Levy County Board of County Commissioners agreed to accept about 1,000 cubic yards of material that is to be dredged from the Cedar Key Marina Basin.

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Cedar Key Mayor Heath Davis explains that this assistance by the county will help the city reduce the cost for dredging the inner marina basin. Hauling dredged material is expensive, because it is dense and heavy – even after it has been dewatered. The current estimate is about 1,000 cubic yards. The county and the city are potentially going to work together, too, on later similar projects related to the RESTORE Act Grant projects at Cedar Key, in regard to dredge spoils.



County Commission Chairman John Meeks

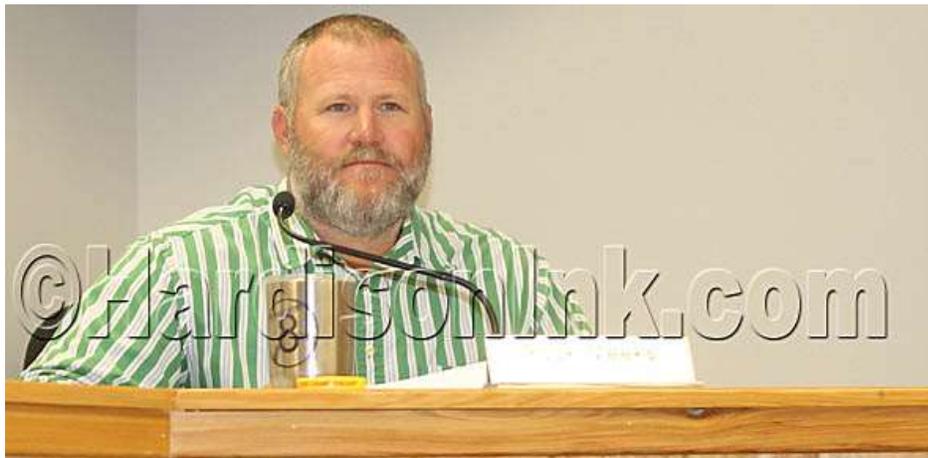
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County Commission Vice Chairman Mike Joyner



County Commissioner Matt Brooks



County Commissioner Rock Meeks

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County Commissioner Lilly Rooks

While this matter was on the west end of Levy County, in another set of actions a relatively famous east-end eating establishment was granted permission to move toward the sale of alcoholic beverages and onsite consumption of those drinks.



The County Commission normally meets the first Tuesday after the first Monday of the month. The Monday morning meeting results from the Fourth of July being on Wednesday this year.

Cedar Key Mayor Heath Davis requested that the county allow the city to put the “dewatered” material that is being dredge from the marina area to go next to Levy County Road 347 on county property.

The material dredged from the bottom of the “inner marina,” the area next to the parking lot where boats can reach the Gulf of Mexico after passing under a bridge, has been checked and will be reviewed for the presence of heavy metals such as arsenic and lead.

Mayor Davis explained that by putting this spoil next to CR 347 it reduces the cost of this dredging process significantly. Transporting even “de-watered” material is heavy, he explained, because it is not sand. It is organic material from decomposed plants, which is very fine and retains water very well.

September of 2019, Davis said, is the current projected time construction to start for building a new bridge to replace the one where boats pass under it now.

The integrity of the current bridge is what has led to its planned replacement. Dredging under the bridge, Davis said, is safe as long as the dredging company stay within the limits they have been given.

When Vice Chairman Mike Joyner restated what Mayor Davis was requesting, County Commissioner Lilly Rooks said the county has provided this opportunity for the city before.

The material will be dewatered in the parking area, Mayor Davis said.

On a motion by Joyner, seconded by Rooks, the County Commission voted 5-0 to allow the Road Department to work with the City of Cedar Key to accommodate the city in this project. Once the material is placed on the county’s right-of-way, that material can be used however the county sees fit. The city will not be seeking a return of the material.

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(from left) Levy County Sheriff Bobby McCallum, Terance Reed, a candidate for County Commission, and County Emergency Management Director John MacDonald are seen in the County Commission Meeting Room on Monday morning. Sheriff McCallum



said he saw no issue with the BBQ restaurant east of Williston being given a special exception to sell alcoholic beverages, including for onsite consumption.

IN OTHER ACTION

In other action Monday, the County Commission unanimously approved, on a motion by Joyner, seconded by County Commissioner Matt Brooks, a request to rezone just over five acres of property from Forestry/Rural Residential to Moderately Intensive Commercial.

This five-acre parcel includes the Frog's Pad BBQ Restaurant east of Williston on U.S. Alt. 27.

In another Joyner-Brooks' motion that met with unanimous approval, a special exception was granted to allow alcoholic beverage sales and on-premises consumption on that property.

This bar/package store will be separate from the Frog's Pad. It will be behind the restaurant with a vegetation buffer and setbacks, as well as a privacy screen fence.

The property owner said alcohol will be sold, served and consumed between 10 a.m. and midnight, which is a time period that is even more restrictive than the county's maximum limits on that function.

The Frog's Pad BBQ Restaurant is within the Williston Municipal Services District. With that in mind, the county asked every department of the city of Williston for input about the special exception, and the county heard it was met with across-the-board approval from all city departments.

Long ago, the Frog's Pad served alcohol. And now, with the construction of a new structure on the rezoned property, that offering will return for the public.