

HardisonInk.com

Levy County expands investment potential



Jared Blanton, CPA, finance officer in the Office of Levy County Clerk Danny Shipp, who is the comptroller for the county commission speaks from the podium to the County Commission. Blanton's senior analyst Robert Boschen stands in the background.

Story and Photos

By Jeff M. Hardison © July 21, 2021 at 8:11 p.m.

BRONSON – The Levy County Board of County Commissioners made the potential for investment opportunities expand Tuesday (July 20).

By two unanimous votes, the County Commission adopted a resolution and amended a county ordinance.

Jared Blanton, CPA, is the finance officer in the Office of Levy County Clerk Danny Shipp, who is the comptroller for the county commission. Blanton brought his senior analyst Robert Boschen as he told the commissioners this is the first ordinance he has drafted.

HardisonInk.com



Attorney Evan Rosenthal and attorney Heather Encinosa are serving as the interim Levy County attorneys for the County Commission, until the county hires a new attorney. County Coordinator Wilbur Dean said the county has advertised for a new attorney and it intends to advertise again. Encinosa, the more senior of the two, and Rosenthal, are both in the firm of Nabors Giblin & Nickerson.

The proposed ordinance change is required for the county to adopt a new investment policy that will dictate the investment of funds under the control of the county -- in excess of the funds required to meet current expenses, Blanton said.

These revisions will meet the requirement of Ordinance Number 2021-010 and section 218.415 of Florida Statutes.



The goal of the policy is to specify safety and diversification requirements for those funds and to attempt to maximize returns within those requirements, Blanton said.

Renatta Cannon is seen in the center of the first row at the County Commission meeting on Tuesday. She is wearing a face mask as an added precaution to reduce the odds of catching or spreading COVID-19.

HardisonInk.com

Levy County resident Renatta Cannon, a relatively well-known observer of local government, asked Blanton to list the four instruments currently available for investment of excess funds by Levy County, and she asked him to name what instruments for investment will be added as a result of this ordinance amendment.

Certificates of Deposit are among these conservative investment vehicles. Blanton and Boschen provided Cannon with the complete list of possible investment opportunities.

The ordinance includes stringent controls and Blanton mentioned the choice he will make are more secure than a private investor would choose. This finance officer has significantly helped Levy County's government with economic improvement repeatedly.



Levy County Property Appraiser Osborn 'Oz' Barker asks and receives approval from the County Commission on a budget amendment. Barker said that it is thanks to Finance Officer Blanton that this annual requirement for approval was found. Barker apologized for not getting County Commission approval before and promised to do so going forward in the coming years. Barker spoke well of Blanton.

HardisonInk.com



Deputy County Clerk Shanda Jordan and County Coordinator Wilbur Dean are seen preparing for the meeting just before it starts. Jordan is the recording clerk for the County Commission meetings, and she is from the office of Levy County Clerk Danny Shipp.



Alicia Tretheway, procurement coordinator for the County Commission (in the background) and Levy County Road Department Administrative Coordinator Alice LaLonde (in the foreground) found the County Commission agreeing to their requests Tuesday.

HardisonInk.com



Robert Lowyns, Levy County Veterans Service Officer, attends the meeting.

IN OTHER ACTION

The County Commission completed several other actions Tuesday, following are some of them:

- Approved a resolution to vacate, abandon and close portions of Northwest 147th Place located in Jeanne Heiber Subdivision as requested by Ginger Nutter. Before making the approval, which was requested by Levy County Road Department Administrative Coordinator Alice LaLonde, commissioners were assured this closure would not deny access to property owners.
- Approved five requests from Levy County Emergency Management Director John MacDonald related to grants, an emergency declaration (after-the-fact) from Hurricane Elsa and ratified another weekly requirement relevant to the global COVID-19 pandemic's impact on Levy County.
- Approved a task assignment related to the construction and engineering inspection for resurfacing Levy County Road 337 north from State Road 24 to the Alachua County line.