



Levy County Board of County Commissioners Agenda Item Summary Form

1. **Name and Title:** Matt Weldon, Division Director
2. **Department:** Public Works/Water Department
3. **Meeting Date:** Tuesday, December 2, 2025
4. **Requested Action:**

PUBLIC HEARING: APPROVE ORDINANCE 2025-13; AN ORDINANCE OF LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA RELATING TO FEES, RATES AND CHARGES; BY ADDING REVISED COUNTY WATER UTILITY FEES, RATES AND CHARGES TO APPENDIX B TITLED "SCHEDULE OF FEES, RATES AND CHARGES"; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE AND PROVIDING DIRECTIONS TO THE CLERK AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

5. **Cost & Funding Source:**

6. **Justification of Request:**

FLORIDA LAW AUTHORIZES COUNTIES TO ADOPT REASONABLE FEES, RATES AND CHARGES FOR VARIOUS COUNTY SERVICES AND FUNCTIONS THAT ARE REQUESTED BY AND OF BENEFIT TO PRIVATE PERSONS/ENTITIES.

**ORDINANCE
NUMBER 2025-13**

AN ORDINANCE OF LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA RELATING TO FEES, RATES AND CHARGES; BY ADDING REVISED COUNTY WATER UTILITY FEES, RATES AND CHARGES TO APPENDIX B TITLED “SCHEDULE OF FEES, RATES AND CHARGES”; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A REPEALING CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE AND PROVIDING DIRECTIONS TO THE CLERK AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Florida law authorizes counties to adopt reasonable fees, rates and charges for various county services and functions that are requested by and of benefit to private persons/entities;

WHEREAS, it has been the practice of Levy County to adopt such fees, rates and charges by various resolutions;

WHEREAS, by adoption of Ordinance No. 2022-7 on March 8, 2022, the Levy County Commission determined it would be more transparent and user friendly to adopt fees, rates and charges by ordinances that are codified in Appendix B to the Code of Ordinances, so they can be readily viewed in the online code library at: https://library.municode.com/fl/levy_county/codes/code_of_ordinances;

WHEREAS, the County owns and maintains two residential water utility systems commonly referred to as “Manatee Utilities” and “University Oaks Utilities” and in June 2025, Florida Rural Water Association completed utility rate studies for both utility systems as requested by the County;

WHEREAS, at its July 8, 2025 and October 7, 2025 Regular Meetings, the County Commission discussed the rate studies and staff recommendations and directed the drafting of this ordinance to revise the water utilities fees, rates and charges and add them to Appendix B of the County Code;

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 153.11, Florida Statutes, the fees, rates and charges proposed in this ordinance are recommended by County staff as just and equitable and reasonably reflective of the cost of providing the utility services for which they are charged;

WHEREAS, in accordance with Sections 153.11 and 180.136, Florida Statutes, notice of the water utility fees, rates and charges proposed for adoption in this ordinance, along with the date, time and place of the public hearing at which this ordinance will be considered, has been provided to each current customer of Manatee Utilities and

Note: Additions shown underlined, deletions shown ~~stricken~~.

University Oaks Utilities through the County utility billing process; and

WHEREAS, at least ten (10) days' notice has been given once by publication in a newspaper of general circulation notifying the public of this proposed Ordinance and of a public hearing in the Levy County Government Center in Bronson, Florida.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of County Commissioners of Levy County, Florida, that:

SECTION 1. The following County Water Utility Fees, Rates and Charges are added to Appendix B titled "Schedule of Fees, Rates and Charges":

<u>APPENDIX B – SCHEDULE OF FEES, RATES AND CHARGES</u> <u>Sec. 6 – County Water Utilities</u>		
<u>A. Manatee Utilities Water System</u>		
<u>Description</u>	<u>Rates effective with the billing cycle that commences the end of December 2025</u>	<u>Rates effective with the billing cycle that commences the end of September 2026</u>
<u>1. Monthly base rate (no gallons included)</u>	<u>\$28.75</u>	<u>\$29.61</u>
<u>2. Water usage rate – 0 to 2,000 gallons (rate is stated per 1,000 gallons)</u>	<u>\$2.19</u>	<u>\$2.25</u>
<u>3. Water usage rate – 2,001 to 5,000 gallons (rate is stated per 1,000 gallons)</u>	<u>\$3.06</u>	<u>\$3.15</u>
<u>4. Water usage rate – 5,001 to 8,000 gallons (rate is stated per 1,000 gallons)</u>	<u>\$3.94</u>	<u>\$4.06</u>
<u>5. Water usage rate – 8,001 or more (rate is stated per 1,000 gallons)</u>	<u>\$4.81</u>	<u>\$4.96</u>
<u>6. Late payment charge</u>	<u>\$10.00</u>	
<u>7. Meter installation fee</u>	<u>\$600.00</u>	

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<u>8. New customer deposit</u>	<u>\$200.00</u>	
<u>9. Connection fee</u>	<u>\$50.00</u>	
<u>10. Reconnect fee</u>	<u>\$50.00</u>	
<u>11. Insufficient funds (returned payment) charge</u>	<u>Reimbursement of actual amount County is charged</u>	
<u>B. University Oaks Utilities Water System</u>		
<u>Description</u>	<u>Rates effective with the billing cycle that commences the end of December 2025</u>	<u>Rates effective with the billing cycle that commences the end of September 2026</u>
<u>1. Monthly base rate (no gallons included)</u>	<u>\$16.09</u>	<u>\$20.12</u>
<u>2. Water usage rate – 0 gallons or more (rate is stated per 1,000 gallons)</u>	<u>\$5.16</u>	<u>\$6.45</u>
<u>3. Late payment charge</u>	<u>\$10.00</u>	
<u>4. Meter installation fee</u>	<u>\$600.00</u>	
<u>5. New customer deposit</u>	<u>\$200.00</u>	
<u>6. Connection fee</u>	<u>\$50.00</u>	
<u>7. Reconnect fee</u>	<u>\$50.00</u>	
<u>8. Insufficient funds (returned payment) charge</u>	<u>Reimbursement of actual amount County is charged</u>	

SECTION 2. Severability. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, portion or provision of this ordinance is for any reason declared or held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such section, subsection,

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sentence, clause, phrase, portion or provision shall be deemed a separate, distinct and independent provision, and the remainder of this ordinance shall be not affected by such declaration or holding.

SECTION 3. Repeal. As of the effective date of the fees, rates and charges set forth in Section 5 below, the Schedule of Fees, Rates and Charges for the University Oaks Water System set forth in Resolution Number 2019-003 and for the Manatee Utilities Water System set forth in Resolution Number 2019-004 are superseded and replaced by this ordinance. All ordinances or parts of ordinances and all resolutions or parts of resolutions of Levy County that are in conflict with this ordinance are, to the extent of the conflict, hereby repealed.

SECTION 4. Inclusion in the Code. The provisions of Section 1 of this ordinance shall become and be made a part of the Levy County Code, and the sections of this ordinance may be renumbered or relettered and the word "ordinance" may be changed to "section," "article," "regulation," or such other appropriate word or phrase in order to accomplish the codification.

SECTION 5. Effective Date. In accordance with Section 125.66, Florida Statutes, the Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners is directed to file this ordinance with the Florida Department of State within 10 days after adoption and upon such filing, this ordinance shall become effective; however, the fees, rates and charges shall become effective on the dates listed in Section 1 of this ordinance.

PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED on December 2, 2025.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA**

Desiree Mills, Chair

ATTEST: Clerk of the Circuit Court
and Ex-Officio Clerk to the Board of
County Commissioners

Matt Brooks, Clerk

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency

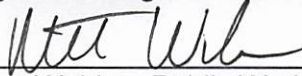
Nicolle M. Shalley, County Attorney

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Levy County Board of County Commissioners
Section 125.66(3), F.S. - Business Impact Estimate for Proposed Ordinance
For public hearing ON OR AFTER October 1, 2024

Instructions: This form must be completed and signed by the County Manager or Department Head for each proposed ordinance that is placed on a County Commission meeting agenda. If the proposed ordinance falls within one of the exemptions listed below, check the applicable exemption(s) and stop there. If the proposed ordinance does NOT fall within one of the listed exemptions, then complete the Business Impact Estimate. Please email your completed, signed form to the County Attorney's Office (Langston-Lynne@levycounty.org), so that it can be posted on the county's website no later than the date the notice of the public hearing is published. If you have questions regarding completion of this form, contact the County Attorney's Office.

I am familiar with the proposed ordinance identified below and completed this form to the best of my knowledge for the sole purpose of compliance with Section 125.66(3), Florida Statutes.


 Matt Weldon, Public Works Director
 Date: 11-5-25

Proposed Ordinance Number and Title: ORDINANCE NUMBER 2025-13

AN ORDINANCE OF LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA RELATING TO FEES, RATES AND CHARGES; BY ADDING REVISED COUNTY WATER UTILITY FEES, RATES AND CHARGES TO APPENDIX B TITLED "SCHEDULE OF FEES, RATES AND CHARGES"; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A REPEALING CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE AND PROVIDING DIRECTIONS TO THE CLERK AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Exemptions: Per Section 125.66(3)(c), F.S., the following types of ordinances are exempt from the Business Impact Estimate requirement (check the box for any exemption that applies):

- ☐ Ordinance required for compliance with the following Federal or State law or regulation: _____;
- ☐ Ordinance relates to the issuance or refinancing of debt;
- ☒ Ordinance relates to the adoption of budgets or budget amendments, including revenue sources necessary to fund the budget;
- ☐ Ordinance is required to implement the following contract or an agreement, including, but not limited to, any Federal, State, local, or private grant, or other financial assistance accepted by the County: _____;
- ☐ Emergency ordinance;
- ☐ Ordinance relates to procurement; or
- ☐ Ordinance enacted to implement the following:
 - a. Development orders (which are defined in s. 163.3164, F.S. to mean any order granting, denying, or granting with conditions an application for a development permit); and Development permits (which are defined in s. 136.3164, F.S. to include any building permit, zoning permit, subdivision approval, rezoning, certification, special exception, variance, or any other official action of local government having the effect of permitting the development

- of land); and Development Agreements as authorized by the Florida Local Government Development Agreement Act under ss. 163.3220-163.3243;
- b. Comprehensive plan amendments and land development regulation amendments initiated by an application by a private party other than the County;
 - c. Sections 190.005 and 190.046, F.S. regarding community development districts;
 - d. Section 553.73, F.S. relating to the Florida Building Code; or
 - e. Section 633.202, F.S. relating to the Florida Fire Prevention Code.

Business Impact Estimate

1. Summary of the proposed ordinance, including a statement of the public purpose (such as serving the public health, safety, morals, and welfare): **In accordance with Chapter 153, Florida Statutes, the County Commission must establish fees, rates and charges that are just and equitable and reasonably reflective of the cost of providing the water utility services for which they are charged.**

2. Estimate of direct economic impact of the proposed ordinance on private, for-profit businesses in the County, including: **Not Applicable, the County's Water Utilities serve only residential customers.**

(a) Estimate of the direct compliance costs that businesses may reasonably incur:

(b) Any new charge or fee imposed on businesses:

(c) Estimate of the County's regulatory costs, including estimated revenues from any new charges or fees to cover such costs:

3. Good faith estimate of the number of businesses likely to be impacted by the proposed ordinance: **Not Applicable, the County's Water Utilities serve only residential customers.**

4. Additional information (if any, but may wish to include how you determined the above information. For example: County staff solicited comments from businesses regarding the impact of the proposed ordinance by contacting the chamber of commerce, social media posting, direct mail or direct email, posting on County website, public workshop, etc. You may also include efforts made to reduce the potential fiscal impact on businesses based on feedback from businesses): **These rates are based on June 2025 water utility rates studies completed by Florida Rural Water Association for both Manatee Utilities and University Oaks Utilities**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER REVISIONS TO WATER FEES, RATES AND CHARGES

You are receiving this notice as a customer of **MANATEE UTILITIES WATER SYSTEM**

On **December 2, 2025 at 9am** (or as soon thereafter as may be heard), **the Levy County Board of County Commissioners will hold a Public Hearing in the Auditorium in the Levy County Government Center located at 310 School Street, Bronson, Florida**, to consider adoption of:

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2025-13: AN ORDINANCE OF LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA RELATING TO FEES, RATES AND CHARGES; BY ADDING REVISED COUNTY WATER UTILITY FEES, RATES AND CHARGES TO APPENDIX B TITLED "SCHEDULE OF FEES, RATES AND CHARGES"; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A REPEALING CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE AND PROVIDING DIRECTIONS TO THE CLERK AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The current fees, rates and charges for the Manatee Utilities Water System have not been revised since 2019. Based on a June 2025 study completed by the Florida Rural Water Association, the Ordinance proposes the revised rate schedule below. **Utility customers and members of the public will be given an opportunity to provide comment and input on the revised rate schedule at the Public Hearing.**

Manatee Utilities Water System		
Description	Rates effective with the billing cycle that commences the end of December 2025	Rates effective with the billing cycle that commences the end of September 2026
1. Monthly base rate (no gallons included)	\$28.75	\$29.61
2. Water usage rate – 0 to 2,000 gallons (rate is stated per 1,000 gallons)	\$2.19	\$2.25
3. Water usage rate – 2,001 to 5,000 gallons (rate is stated per 1,000 gallons)	\$3.06	\$3.15
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5. Water usage rate – 8,001 or more (rate is stated per 1,000 gallons)	\$4.81	\$4.96
6. Late payment charge	\$10.00	
7. Meter installation fee	\$600.00	

8. New customer deposit	\$200.00	Item 12.
9. Connection fee	\$50.00	
10. Reconnect fee	\$50.00	
11. Insufficient funds (returned payment) charge	Reimbursement of actual amount County is charged	

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER REVISIONS TO WATER FEES, RATES AND CHARGES

You are receiving this notice as a customer of **UNIVERSITY OAKS UTILITIES WATER SYSTEM**

On **December 2, 2025 at 9am** (or as soon thereafter as may be heard), **the Levy County Board of County Commissioners will hold a Public Hearing in the Auditorium in the Levy County Government Center located at 310 School Street, Bronson, Florida**, to consider adoption of:

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2025-13: AN ORDINANCE OF LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA RELATING TO FEES, RATES AND CHARGES; BY ADDING REVISED COUNTY WATER UTILITY FEES, RATES AND CHARGES TO APPENDIX B TITLED "SCHEDULE OF FEES, RATES AND CHARGES"; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A REPEALING CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE AND PROVIDING DIRECTIONS TO THE CLERK AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The current fees, rates and charges for the University Oaks Utilities Water System have not been revised since 2019. Based on a June 2025 study completed by the Florida Rural Water Association, the Ordinance proposes the revised rate schedule below. **Utility customers and members of the public will be given an opportunity to provide comment and input on the revised rate schedule at the Public Hearing.**

University Oaks Utilities Water System		
Description	Rates effective with the billing cycle that commences the end of December 2025	Rates effective with the billing cycle that commences the end of September 2026
1. Monthly base rate (no gallons included)	\$16.09	\$20.12
2. Water usage rate – 0 gallons or more (rate is stated per 1,000 gallons)	\$5.16	\$6.45
3. Late payment charge	\$10.00	
4. Meter installation fee	\$600.00	
5. New customer deposit	\$200.00	
6. Connection fee	\$50.00	
7. Reconnect fee	\$50.00	
8. Insufficient funds (returned payment) charge	Reimbursement of actual amount County is charged	