

MINUTES OF THE GLADES COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MEETING ON TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2016 AT 9:00 A.M. IN THE COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM, GLADES COUNTY COURTHOUSE, MOORE
HAVEN, FLORIDA

The Glades County Board of County Commissioners met on Tuesday, April 12, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. with the following Commissioners present:

Tim Stanley, Chairman
Weston Pryor, Vice Chairman
Donna Storter Long
Paul Beck
John Ahern

Others present:

Julie Mann Braddock, Administrative Secretary
Richard Pringle, County Attorney
Paul Carlisle, County Manager
Avant Brown, County Road Superintendent
Tiffany Patterson, Finance Director
Bob Jones, Public Safety Director
Lenice Hubbard, County Manager's Office
Inga Williams, Community Development Director
Jenny Allen, Office Manager - Community Development Department
David Hardin, GCSO
Missie Barletto, AIM Engineering
Daryl Lewis, GCSO
Raoul Bataller, Hendry Glades Sunday News
Libby Maxwell, South Florida Water Management District
Susan Harris, SHIP Coordinator
Moore Haven High School Honor Students
62 citizens

Chairman Stanley called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

PRAYER

Commissioner Storter Long gave the invocation.

PLEDGE

Vice Chairman Pryor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS

County Manager Carlisle requested that Item 9 – Community Center Flooring be pulled from the agenda. He stated he had received some additional prices and would like to do

some more research regarding treatments for the floors prior to making a final decision on the purchase of products.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Beck seconded by Commissioner Ahern the Board approved the removal of Item 9 – Community Center Flooring from the agenda.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

PRESENTATIONS / AWARDS

1. Southwest Florida Community Foundation Grant Presentation

County Manager Carlisle stated the County had received a grant from the Southwest Florida Community Foundation. He introduced Mrs. Sarah Owen to the Board.

Sarah Owen, Southwest Florida Community Foundation, stated the Foundation was celebrating its 40th anniversary this week. She stated one of the Foundation's proudest accomplishments over the years was its partnership with Glades County and the Training Center. She stated it was appropriate that there were so many educators and students present at today's meeting. She stated because of the Training Center these students would have a lot of opportunities. She stated the Training Center would benefit students from all over the region. She stated County Manager Carlisle and Commissioner Storter Long had really helped the Foundation get a clear view of what they could do to support Glades County. She stated she was very proud to be here today and to make the presentation of a \$50,000.00 grant to Glades County. She stated these funds would provide technology, Wi-Fi, and other support services to the Training Center. She stated it was an honor for the Foundation to partner with Glades County and she looked forward to working with the County in the future.

Chairman Stanley accepted the check on behalf of the Board and thanked the Southwest Florida Community Foundation for their support.

2. Recognition of Glades County Teacher of the Year Recipients and Moore Haven High School Graduating Honor Students

Jamie Brown, Vice Principal – Moore Haven High School, came forward to present certificates to the Teachers of the Year and the graduating Honor Students.

West Glades Teacher of the Year: Tom Gaskins

Moore Haven Elementary Teacher of the Year: Leslie Pryor

Moore Haven High School Teacher of the Year: Jim Shields

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School (Middle School) Teacher of the Year: Traci Mendez

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School (Elementary) and Glades County Teacher of the Year: Cindy Ringstaff

Valedictorian: Jesse Espinosa

Salutatorian (2): Brittney Drayton and Kate Perry

MHHS Honor Students:

Kelly Rico
Elsi Velasquez
Allison Gopher
Chole Ahern
Darien Cook
Tevon Thompson
Sarah Mercer
James Reitz
Megan Whitehead
Alyssa Rawlings
Dezmon Shore
Jose Garcia
Kaitlyn Dunson
Ani Drayton
Brianna Carner
Kala Mcintosh
Vekeria Hallback
Savannah Devine
Victoria Cisneros
Taysia Wilcox
Amber Town
Tonoria Cunnigham
Adrian Soriano
Joshua Click
D'Angelo Ware
Nihusa Oviedo

Cesar Salgado, Dalton Tevlin, Josue De Santiago, and Donovan Osceola were not present.

Chairman Stanley congratulated the students and stated they should be very proud of what they had accomplished.

The MHHS Honor Students and teachers left the meeting.

The Board took a short recess at 9:25 a.m.

Chairman Stanley called the meeting back to order at 9:30 a.m.

PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS

There were none.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were none.

CONSENT AGENDA

3. **Approved payment of County Warrants. (Exhibit A)**
General Fund: 78150 – 78238
Tourism Development: 1033
SHIP: 1649
Intergovernmental Radio: 10297
EMS Award Grant: 1923
4. **Approved the Minutes of the March 28, 2016 Regular Meeting.**
5. **Request to Delete Items from the Property Records and Declare as Surplus. (See Exhibit B)**

ON MOTION of Commissioner Ahern seconded by Commissioner Beck the Board approved the Consent Agenda items.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

BUSINESS AGENDA

6. Donate Life Month Resolution

Chairman Stanley stated everyone was a potential organ, eye and tissue donor and could register their wish to save lives through organ and tissue donation at www.donatelifeflorida.org or on their Florida Driver's License or State issued identification card.

ON MOTION of Vice Chairman Pryor seconded by Commissioner Ahern the Board approved Glades County Resolution 2016-10, proclaiming April 2016 as Donate Life Month and encouraging Glades County Residents to register to become an organ and tissue donor.

Stanley read the Resolution into the record.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

7. Purchase of Dump Truck

County Manager Carlisle stated the Road Department was requesting to purchase a new dump truck to replace the one that was recently declared surplus and removed from the property records. He stated the truck was being purchased off the State bid from Tampa Truck Center in the amount of \$101,951.00.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Beck seconded by Commissioner Starter Long the Board approved the purchase of a new dump truck for the Road Department from Tampa Truck Center in the amount of \$101,951.00.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

8. Budget Transfer Request

County Manager Carlisle stated a budget transfer request in the amount of \$101,951.00 from Transportation Reserves was being request for the purchase of the dump truck.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Beck seconded by Vice Chairman Pryor the Board approved a budget transfer in the amount of \$101,951.00 from Transportation Reserves to Transportation Equipment.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

9. Community Center Flooring (deleted per amendment to the agenda)

10. Road Paving in Muse

County Manager Carlisle stated the Road Department was requesting to use One Cent Funds for the paving of Oak Avenue and Apache Trail in Muse. He stated this proposal used the bid quantities that the County received for Kirby Thompson Road. He stated Lynch Paving would be doing the paving. He stated each road would costs \$84,740.00 for a total of \$169,480.00.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Commissioner Ahern the Board approved funding in the amount of \$169,480.00 from One Cent Funding for the paving of Oak Avenue and Apache Trail in Muse.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

11. Road Paving Buckhead Ridge

County Manager Carlisle stated the Road Department was requesting to use Local Gas Tax funds for the paving of Chobee Loop and Chobee Street in Buckhead Ridge. He stated this proposal used the quantities that the County received for Kirby Thompson Road. He stated Lynch Paving would be doing this work on this project as well. He stated the total would be \$87,280.00.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Vice Chairman Pryor the Board approved funding in the amount of \$87,280.00 from the Local Gas Tax Fund for the paving of Chobee Loop and Chobee Street in Buckhead Ridge.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

12. Budget Transfer Request

County Manager Carlisle modified this budget transfer request to \$169,480.00 for the paving of the 2 roads in Muse. He withdrew the request for funding for the flooring at the Ortona and Washington Park Community Centers (\$23,217.00).

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Commissioner Ahern the Board approved budget transfers from Capital Outlay One Cent Funds totaling \$169,480.00.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

13. Florida Heartland Economic Region of Opportunity (FHERO)

County Manager Carlisle stated the County was currently a member of the Florida Heartland Economic Development Initiative (FHREDI); however, due to the broadband project and litigation surrounding that project, the FHREDI Board had decided to dissolve that organization and form the Florida Heartland Economic Region of Opportunity (FHERO). He stated FHERO would take the place of FHREDI and had a new outlook on economic development.

Chairman Stanley asked if FHREDI would be completely dissolved.

County Manager Carlisle stated FHREDI would be filing bankruptcy under Chapter 7.

Chairman Stanley asked if the same counties and cities would be members of FHERO.

County Manager Carlisle stated they would and that the Board would be rebranding and reorganizing.

Commissioner Beck stated he was in favor of a letter of support for FHERO. He asked if the reorganization would eliminate all of the liabilities associated with FHREDI. He stated there was still a lot of equipment in several warehouses and the Board would need to sell the equipment and terminate the leases on the warehouses.

County Manager Carlisle stated the warehouses located in Lake Placid were willing to negotiate with FHREDI; however, issues with the north Florida warehouses were going to take some time to resolve.

Commissioner Beck stated FHERO seemed to have a new energy and a much improved mission statement. He urged the Board to separate from the old FHREDI and join the new FHERO.

Commissioner Storter Long asked what equipment would be sold.

County Manager Carlisle stated there were liens attached to broadband equipment that had been purchased when FHREDI was attempting to bring broadband to the area. He stated the project had not been successful and there was several million dollars' worth of

equipment left in these warehouses. He stated there was also back rent due on the warehouses.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if FHERO would be attempting to get another grant to pursue the completion of the broadband project.

County Manager Carlisle stated that would not happen. He stated this was not something that FHERO wished to tackle. He stated he did not see where the project would ever be successful.

Commissioner Storter Long questioned the cost to join FHERO and if it would be based upon population as before.

County Manager Carlisle stated the funding mechanism was the same as before.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Beck seconded by Commissioner Ahern the Board approved Support for the development of “Florida Heartland Economic Region of Opportunity” (FHERO) and authorized the Chairman to sign the letter of support.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

There was no discussion.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

Attorney Pringle informed the Board that the JJ Wiggins litigation had recently been dismissed. He stated the appeal times had run and the litigation was completely finished.

COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Carlisle stated the County and the Department of Economic Opportunity had reached a compromise regarding the Travel Center. He stated the permits were ready to be issued. He stated there was one more issue to overcome before construction could be begin. He stated the DEO was requiring that a cultural resource study be done prior to receiving the funding from the State. He stated the State Historical Preservation Society had waived the requirement; however, he was still working with DEO to resolve the matter. He stated the funds were set to be released by April 20th. He stated if the study was required the project would be delayed for a while. He stated he had received several emails from Loves and that the project was well on its way.

Commissioner Storter Long thanked County Manager Carlisle for his perseverance with this project.

DEPARTMENT HEADS

There was no discussion.

PUBLIC INPUT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Daryl Lewis, resident of 1049 Ash Circle (BHR), Okeechobee, stated there had been some controversy regarding his political signs. He stated the concerns had been taken to the State Elections Office as well as the local Elections Office. He stated he had been told that as long as the signs were not on State property or County property they were alright. He stated he had spoken with County Manager Carlisle who had consulted Attorney Pringle on the matter and had been informed that the language used on the signs was improper. He stated his signs indicated that he had the support of the Fire Departments. He stated this language would be changed to “support of the Fire Fighters”. He stated the language would be covered on the tops of his signs by tomorrow afternoon and that new signage had been ordered. (Amended by Glades County BOCC at the April 25, 2016 meeting to show that Mr. Lewis agreed during the April 12th meeting to change “Departments” to “Individual Firefighters” on his signs.)

Vice Chairman Pryor thanked Mr. Lewis for getting the issue resolved.

Mr. Lewis stated he meant no embarrassment to the County or Board.

Commissioner Storter Long stated Mr. Lewis had told her that the signs would be taken down.

Mr. Lewis stated he would be covering the top of the signs and that new ones had been ordered.

Commissioner Storter Long stated Mr. Lewis had indicated that his support was unanimous from all of the fire fighters and commented on the documentation that was needed in order to place this language on the signs.

Attorney Pringle stated as long as the signatures from the fire fighters were obtained the signage would be allowed.

Mr. Lewis read the language on the signature sheets he had prepared into the record: “The following signatures represent those individuals who are fire fighters and who are confirming their individual support for the Daryl Lewis for Sheriff 2016 campaign. Each signature was obtained on the date indicated and at a location not identified as the building or property of Glades County. Additionally, each person, at their time of signing, was off-duty and not engaging in any county-compensated activities.”

Commissioner Storter Long requested that their addresses and phone numbers be obtained as well.

Commissioner Beck expressed concern with this matter. He stated he had received numerous phone calls over this issue. He stated people were blaming the Board for

support of an individual candidate. He stated he did not support any candidate whatsoever for any office in Glades County. He stated he would like to further quiet the conversation in the community by having County Manager Carlisle or Attorney Pringle present the case to the Ethics Commission for a final opinion.

Vice Chairman Pryor stated he believed the matter had already been settled.

Commissioner Storter Long agreed. She stated she was not sure this was an ethics issue. She stated she believed a complaint would have to be filed with the Ethics Commission prior to them reviewing the matter. She stated she felt the Board's authority had been misused, but that the matter had been resolved.

Chairman Stanley stated he did not believe this matter was up to the Board to resolve. He stated the Board was not in the election business. He stated the Board was not here to make rulings on what kinds of political signs could be put up. He stated the State had election laws regulating the signage.

Commissioner Beck stated that was irrelevant. He stated the use of a County Department directly involved the Board.

Chairman Stanley suggested having Attorney Pringle look into the matter further.

Commissioner Beck stated he was not concerned with the signs but the support statements on the signs. He stated he was ready for this matter to come to an end.

Chairman Stanley stated he believed this issue should be handled by the Elections Office and Mr. Lewis.

Commissioner Storter Long stated Mr. Lewis should have conferred with the County Manager prior to putting the signs up.

Commissioner Beck stated he wanted the Board removed from the entire deal and wanted no connection with Mr. Lewis's campaign. He expressed concern with the volunteer Fire Departments being on County property and being funded by Glades County. He stated he was not a lawyer and wanted some clarity on the issues.

Commissioner Storter Long stated each individual fire fighter should have to sign the documentation that Mr. Lewis was gathering.

Mr. Lewis stated he would get each individuals signature.

Commissioner Beck stated the he was not sure that this issue would be resolved without some clarity.

Commissioner Ahern stated he believed the issue had been resolved. He stated he was not supporting any one candidate. He stated he was satisfied with what County Manager Carlisle and Attorney Pringle had worked out with Mr. Lewis.

Chairman Stanley stated any individual in the room could file a complaint with the Ethics Commission if they so desired.

Commissioner Beck stated he personally did not care what Mr. Lewis put on his signs; however, his concern was clearing the Board from any association with the issue.

Commissioner Storter Long stated she believed if Mr. Lewis gathered the proper documentation from the individual fire fighters the issue would be resolved. She stated she did not see where the matter should have to go to the Ethics Commission.

Bob Jones, Public Safety Director, stated he was not endorsing anyone and refused to get wrapped up in the matter. He stated if the Board thought he had anything to do with this issue or that he was at the point where he was unable to run his department to let him know, he would move on. He stated he simply wanted to run his department and do what was best for this County as he had for the past 21 years.

Commissioner Storter Long stated it was not time for Mr. Jones to move on. She stated she had only copied Mr. Jones with the emails because they were indicating that the Buckhead Ridge Fire Department, which was under his supervision, was named on the signs.

Mr. Jones stated he was not even aware of the signs until Wednesday night.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if Mr. Jones was one of the individuals who had agreed to support Mr. Lewis and sign his documentation.

Mr. Jones stated he was not and had not been asked. He stated he would not sign documentation for anyone.

Commissioner Ahern stated he appreciated everything Mr. Jones did for the County. He stated he was on the original joint Board between the City and County 21 years ago when Mr. Jones was hired and that he was proud to have been a part of that.

COMMISSIONERS ITEMS AND COMMENTS

Commissioner Storter Long thanked the Board for their approval of the paving of the roads in Muse. She commented on a panther that was becoming very friendly with one of her neighbors across the river. She stated the panthers were getting less elusive in the area.

Commissioner Ahern stated the population at GCDC was up to 192 as of yesterday. He stated 44 of these inmates were being housed at the County Jail. He stated he and

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County Manager Carlisle had met with Andrew Bowers and others to discuss the new Training Center. He stated the discussion had been very good. He stated they had also addressed the compost plant located on the Reservation. He stated he and County Manager Carlisle had visited the compost plant and met with the new Manager – Steve Larsen and his supervisor. He stated the staff at the plant were doing all they could to deal with the odor problems that the plant was creating. He stated he believed the issues would be resolved very soon. He stated he would provide the contact information to the other Commissioners. He stated he had received the final numbers from Glades Youth Livestock on the annual Livestock Sale. He stated the add-ons had amounted to \$58,854.00 which brought the total sale to \$331,990.00 which was a definite success.

Vice Chairman Pryor stated he was still working on the dates for the Legislative event that would be hosted in Glades County. He thanked Commissioner Beck for his assistance in getting rid of some honey bees in Washington Park recently.

Commissioner Beck stated he was glad the Board had come to a resolution regarding Mr. Lewis's signs.

Chairman Stanley stated the County Auction would be held at the County Road Department on April 16, 2016. He stated the items would be available for viewing at 8:00 a.m. and the auction would begin at 9:00 a.m. He stated a Household Hazardous Waste Collection day would be held at the Doyle Conner Building on April 30, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. He commented on how disheartening it was that the Board was doing everything they could to bring businesses into the County and the bank and Burger King were closing and the recently sold hotel had burnt to the ground this weekend.

Commissioner Ahern stated he hoped the people that purchased the hotel would still pursue the building of a hotel on the site. He thanked the fire men that had fought the fire.

ADJOURN

ON MOTION of Commissioner Beck seconded by Vice Chairman Pryor the Board adjourned the meeting.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Stanley adjourned the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

Tim Stanley, Chairman

ATTEST:

Sandra H. Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court

Approved: April 25, 2016 with amendment regarding changing “Departments” to “Individual Firefighters”

THESE MINUTES ARE NOT A VERBATIM RECORD. TAPES ARE AVAILABLE FOR ANYONE INTERESTED IN LISTENING TO THE ENTIRE MEETING.