

MINUTES OF THE GLADES COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING ON MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 2019 AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM, GLADES COUNTY COURTHOUSE, MOORE  
HAVEN, FLORIDA

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The Glades County Board of County Commissioners met on Monday, January 28, 2019  
at 6:00 p.m. with the following Commissioners present:

Tim Stanley, Chairman  
Weston Pryor, Vice Chairman  
John Ahern  
Donna Storter Long  
Donald Strenth

Others present:

Julie Mann Braddock, Administrative Secretary  
Martin Murphy, County Manager  
Susan BuChans, Community Development Director  
Archie Branch, Public Works Director  
Bob Jones, Public Safety Director  
Connie Vanassche, CAS Governmental Services  
Dale Milita, CAS Governmental Services  
Susan Whidden, Administrative Assistant – County Manager’s Office  
Tiffany Patterson, Finance Director  
Ellen Beers, Planning & Zoning Board Member  
David Hardin, Glades County Sheriff  
Chris Felker, Lake Okeechobee News  
27 citizens

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Stanley called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**PRAYER**

Commission Storter Long gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE**

Commissioner Strenth led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA AMENDMENTS**

Note: Unanimous Board Action is required to amend agenda for official vote.

Chairman Stanley asked that Item #3 – Professional Services Supplemental Agreement No. 05 with Johnson Engineering in reference to Continuing Miscellaneous Professional Services for Mitigation Options for Environmental Monitoring and Reporting be covered under the County Manager’s Report. He stated no action was needed on this item.

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ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Commissioner Ahern the Board amended the agenda as stated.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

### **PRESENTATIONS / AWARDS**

#### **1. Hendry Glades Unmet Needs Coalition Presentation**

Evette Wingate, Vice Chair for the Hendry Glades Unmet Needs Coalition, stated the coalition was formed in January 2018 and was community based and run by volunteers who lived in the communities of Glades and Hendry counties. She stated the coalition was a long term recovery group and would be around for many years. She stated the coalition served as an Advisory Committee in partnership with the United Way. She stated the coalition was organized in September of 2018. She explained some of the benefits of being under the United Way. She stated the coalition was now under the United Way's liability insurance and now had free office space, telephone, printing, copying, internet, and use of a conference room. She stated the United Way also served as the coalition's fiscal agent. She stated the coalition had access to the United Way's grant writer and free financial services. She stated the coalition helped address individual and family needs. She stated the assessments were kept confidential. She stated case managers presented the needs to the committee members and various stakeholders to determine if the need could be met. She stated the coalition only funded cases where no other resources were available. She stated they worked with various labor organizations that provided assistance at no cost to the clients. She stated referrals could be made to Greg Gunter, Support Manager, who was present tonight. She stated Mr. Gunter's position was funded through the American Red Cross grant that had been awarded to the coalition in July of 2018. She stated referrals could also be made by dialing 211. She stated in December of 2018 the coalition had been awarded an additional Red Cross grant in the amount of \$500,000.00 to be used as direct assistance to clients who had been identified through World Renew assessments. She stated World Renew had done 50 assessments in Glades County. She stated one of the first 4 cases to be reviewed under the new grant was in Glades County. She stated 16 of the cases were in active case management. She stated World Renew estimated that the damages for these 50 cases in Glades County amounted to approximately \$885,000.00. She stated the Florida Conference of the Methodist Church had 2 full time case managers in Glades County. She stated the coalition gave priority to the elderly, veterans, those with disabilities, and those with young children. She thanked the Board for its assistance and support.

Greg Gunter, Support Manager, echoed Ms. Wingate's comments. He stated the coalition was just getting started with the larger grant. He stated it would obviously not be enough to assist all of the clients so they would have to prioritize. He stated those most needy would be assisted first. He reminded everyone to call 211 if they knew of anyone who needed help. He stated this number could be called for all social services. He stated he could be reached at (239) 433-7560 and that he was in the LaBelle United Way office from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. every day. He stated a consulting contracting firm had been hired to assist the coalition in moving forward with the grant. He stated he was

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interested in using local contractors for Glades County work. He thanked the Board again for its support.

Chairman Stanley asked how many cases there were in Hendry County.

Mr. Gunter stated there were approximately 250 in Hendry County.

Chairman Stanley asked if the \$500,000.00 was to take care of both counties.

Mr. Gunter explained that there was a formula that would be used to prioritize the cases that needed assistance first. He stated Glades and Hendry counties had over \$4 million in damages. He stated obviously the grant funds would not be enough. He stated the coalition and the United Way were still seeking additional funding. He stated United Way had been matching donations. He stated they were also looking for volunteer labor groups.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if there was a ranking system used to determine which cases would get assistance.

Ms. Wingate stated the disaster response group ranked the cases according to a system that they had.

Mr. Gunter stated the severity of the damages also played a part in the ranking.

Commissioner Ahern thanked Ms. Wingate for her efforts with the coalition. He stated she spent a lot of her time volunteering for the group.

Ms. Wingate thanked the Board for their time.

### **2. MSBU Fire Presentation**

Bob Jones, Public Safety Director, explained that the figures he was about to give would by no means cover every neighborhood in the County. He stated he had looked at what the best coverage would be for the money. He stated the coverage could always be extended later on. He stated these figures were based on call volume and the availability of mutual aid response. He stated he had also made recommendations of where the trucks should be placed. He stated he had provided budgets for 5, 4, and 3 stations. He stated he had given an overview of what he believed would cover the County the best. He stated in his opinion, the County should go with the 4 station budget. He stated the stations would be placed throughout the County as follows: 1 in Buckhead Ridge, 1 in Lakeport, 1 in Moore Haven, and 1 in the west end of the County. He stated if a fifth station was added it would be located on the south side of the river. He stated budgets had been provided for stations housing paramedics/firefighters. He stated for 4 stations the budget would be approximately \$2,288,000.00 per year; which would amount to an MSBU of approximately \$448.00 per year per household. He stated 4 stations would costs approximately \$1,800,000.00 and would amount to an MSBU of approximately \$368.00 per year per household.

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Chairman Stanley stated he had read in the older study that was previously done that paramedics could not be funded using an MSBU.

Mr. Jones stated EMS could not be funded using an MSBU. He stated he would check on this, but believed that this was addressed in the settlement of the lawsuit the County had brought against it years ago. He stated he believed this pertained to financing transporting paramedic units. He stated these would be non-transporting units. He stated he had not included industrial or commercial units in these numbers but felt he was close on what it would cost the County. He explained that the Muse station would serve Muse, Ortona, and Port LaBelle. He stated Moore Haven would backup this station. He stated none of this budget would eliminate the use of volunteers. He stated mutual aid could be used from LaBelle, if needed. He stated the stations in Buckhead Ridge and Lakeport would work together as well. He stated Moore Haven would be the swing station that could be called out to anywhere. He stated he believed this would be a good place to start. He stated safer grants and equipment grants could be used to help fund the stations. He explained that the safer grant would pay 75% of the salaries and benefit for the first 2 years and 35% for the next year.

Chairman Stanley stated he felt the County would need to get a more in depth study done before a decision could be made on how many stations were needed. He stated he believed County Manager Murphy had some consultants with the League of Cities that were willing to come down and give an assessment.

County Manager Murphy stated he had contacted the Center for Public Safety Management and one of the principals lived here in Florida and was willing to come to Glades County to do a preliminary assessment. He stated this was a third party, private consulting firm. He stated he had given them some information and demographics already and the firm had indicated that they would be willing to come out and talk to the Board about how to proceed and help determine an appropriate staffing level and equipment level.

Commissioner Storter Long stated this would be a pre-assessment before an RFP was drafted and put out. She asked if that would be a conflict of interest for the Center and if they would be able to respond to the RFP if they also did the assessment.

County Manager Murphy stated he believed the Center may charge the County for their travel time to do the pre-assessment. He stated the Center would only bid on the RFP if they were invited to do so. He stated they did not actively seek projects.

Chairman Stanley stated the County definitely needed more firemen. He stated the question now would be how many and where they would be stationed. He stated the County was so spread out it almost needed 8 fire houses for 8 communities. He asked how many firemen Okeechobee employed. He stated Okeechobee County had 3 fire houses all within the city and 1 out at the prison. He stated he would be willing to pay the volunteers a yearly stipend.

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Mr. Jones stated he would be meeting with Okeechobee County staff to discuss Buckhead Ridge's need for fire protection. He stated Okeechobee was running 4 man engines. He stated this was 6 people per station. He stated the proposed budget he had come up with for Glades County had 2 men per station. He agreed that an assessment should be done.

Chairman Stanley suggested having a consultant come in and assess where the stations should be placed. He stated he believed the information obtained should be presented to each Homeowners' Association so that they could decide on the level of service they wished to have and how much they were willing to pay.

Mr. Jones provided a copy of the Letter from GSG dated November 19, 2013 describing what data would be used in the study that was done in 2014. (Exhibit B) He stated this document gave a basic outline of the information that would be used and the time frames for adoption of the MSBU. He explained how he had come up with the figures presented.

Vice Chairman Pryor stated he felt low income exemptions should be accounted for in these figures. He stated there would be numerous people that would not be paying the assessment.

Mr. Jones stated he recalled that churches were exempt from paying the assessment when the study had been done before. He stated there were also hardship exemptions. He stated he had not been able to find this information when he was preparing this report. He stated government buildings were exempt as well. He stated the County's biggest problems were the demographics, the fact that there were no hospitals, only 2 ambulances, only 1 fire truck during the daytime, and little to no volunteers.

Chairman Stanley stated the following were the totals shown in the previous study that was done: to hire an additional 2 firemen - \$79.00 per year (annual assessment on tax bill per household); to hire an additional 4 firemen - \$117.00 per year; and to hire an additional 7 firemen - \$149.00 per year. He stated this report also taxed agricultural lands which the County was no longer able to do. He stated these were 8 hour shifts. He stated the County had 2 paid firemen right now that were on 8 hours per day. He asked where the new firemen, if hired (and funded) would be placed.

Mr. Jones stated they would be used throughout the County as needed.

Commissioner Ahern stated he had looked at how Hendry County was funding its fire departments. He stated Hendry County had 2 fire districts. He stated he felt the needs assessments would benefit the County. He asked that Ms. Brown send this information to all of the Commissioners.

Chairman Stanley suggested allowing County Manager Murphy to proceed with bringing in the consultants.

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County Manager Murphy stated the consultant had indicated that he would come down and spend the day talking with Mr. Jones and the Commissioners and would then prepare a brief presentation for the Board. He stated he had worked with this consulting firm in the past. He again stated they would be happy to give the County a set price; however, they did not compete. He stated he was not sure if the County needed a needs analysis or some kind of assessment of the current level of service.

Chairman Stanley stated he was not ready to spend \$30,000.00 on an assessment until the consultants could give the County an idea of what was needed.

County Manager Murphy stated the consultants would be offering advice and guidance at this point. He stated if the Board chose to proceed they would at least have road map to follow. He stated he had already provided a copy of the study that was done in 2014 to the consultants.

It was the consensus of the Board to have County Manager Murphy proceed with having the Center of Public Safety Management review the County's needs and make a presentation to the Board at a later meeting.

Chairman Stanley stated several citizens had signed up to speak regarding this item. He called for public input.

J. C. Long, resident of Ortona, stated the Board should consider this subject very seriously. He stated the County had paid \$30,000.00 for a study about 8 years ago. He stated that money had been thrown away.

Connie Lyle, of Summerall Road, stated the current level of emergency services in Glades County was inadequate. She commented on a medical emergency that occurred on January 19, 2019. She stated the LaBelle Volunteer Fire Department had responded to the call without the medical expertise needed.

Jacob Heflin, resident of Ortona, suggested the County look into contracting with a private company, such as Rural Metro, for fire services.

Danny Calahan, resident of Muse, stated he had moved to Glades County in 2001 and there had been a volunteer staff of 15 + members at that time. He stated the State Fire Marshall had changed the standards and these volunteers had left. He commented on the need for more volunteers.

Steve Heine, resident of Muse, stated he appreciated the Board listening to the concerns of the citizens. He commented on a fire that occurred on January 1, 2019 right next to his property. He stated there was no Glades County response. He stated LaBelle, Lehigh Acres, and the Division of Forestry had responded to the call. He urged the Board to consider the needs of the different communities.

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Mr. Jones reminded Mr. Heine that he had responded to that fire call from Buckhead Ridge.

Harold Nelson, resident of Lakeport, expressed concern with an emergency call he had made last year regarding his wife. He stated he had requested that the ambulance take his wife to Raulerson Hospital in Okeechobee. He stated the paramedic had told him that he had to transport to Hendry Regional in Clewiston because he was not sure if Raulerson Hospital contracted with Glades.

Mr. Jones stated he would pull the trip sheet and investigate this matter. He stated there should have been no reason that she could not have been transported to Raulerson Hospital.

Ellen Beers, resident of Muse, stated the demographics of Glades County were different. She suggested contacting similar population counties and comparing data and services.

Commissioner Ahern agreed.

Chad Mudge, resident of Muse, stated he was representing 9 families in the area tonight. He stated they would all like to see some kind of fire services in the community. He commented on a call he made to 911 on December 22, 2018. He stated Glades County had responded within 10 minutes of the call; however, he did not believe they could have responded so quickly had they not been in the area already for a vehicle accident. He thanked Mr. Jones and his staff for their efforts. He stated he lived 1.5 miles from the volunteer fire department in Muse. He stated his home had caught on fire some time back and had it not been for an off duty Lee County fire fighter passing by he would have lost his home. He urged the Board to consider improving the level of fire services in the area.

Ellen Beers, resident of Muse, suggested recruiting high schoolers to become fire fighters. She suggested training them at the Training Center.

Commissioner Ahern stated they were working with iTech in Immokalee regarding several different training opportunities.

**3. Professional Services Supplemental Agreement No. 05 with Johnson Engineering in reference to continuing miscellaneous professional services for Mitigation options for Environmental Monitoring and Reporting**

This item was moved to the County Manager's items. No action was needed nor taken.

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

There were none.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

**4. Approved payment of County Warrants (Exhibit A)**

**General Fund: 84892 – 85015**  
**ACH Payments: 94 – 101**  
**E911: 126**  
**Library Fund: 1015**  
**Courthouse Facilities Grant: 1472**  
**Intergovernmental Radio: 10373**

**5. Approved the minutes of the January 8, 2019 Regular Meeting**

ON MOTION of Commissioner Strenth seconded by Vice Chairman Pryor the Board approved the Consent Agenda items.

Commissioner Ahern stated he would abstain from voting on the Invoice payable to Ahern's Service Center in the amount of \$10.00. (See Exhibit C)

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

Commissioner Ahern abstained on voting on the one payment of an Invoice payable to Ahern's Service Center in the amount of \$10.00.

**PUBLIC INPUT ON BUSINESS AGENDA ITEMS**

Anyone wishing to provide public comment on an Agenda Item please fill out a comment card on the table at the entrance to the Commission Chambers.

There was none.

**BUSINESS AGENDA**

**6. Resolution 2019- – Establishing a line item in future annual operating budgets beginning in FY 2019-2020 in an amount sufficient to ensure conditions specific to the success of the Mitigation Plan**

County Manager Murphy stated the County had been issued an Army Corps of Engineer's permit in February 2014 to undertake the dredging and fill activities to improve navigational access in the Moore Haven Canal and Big Trail Channel. He stated the available grant funding at the time was insufficient to complete the project in its entirety. He stated the permit was set to expire on February 25<sup>th</sup>. He stated the County was seeking an extension of the permit so that it could pursue additional funding for future improvements. He stated the Corps had notified the County that they would be treating each phase of the dredging as a separate project. He stated the Corps required 2 items: 1 - The County had to record the property with a "conservation easement"; which had been completed and 2 - the County must establish an account in future budgets to provide for future maintenance. He stated this proposed resolution would establish a line item account in the County's next budget.

Commissioner Ahern stated this line item would fall under the Road Department's budget.

Commissioner Storter Long commented on the maintenance expenses. She asked where the mitigation area was and what it encompassed. She expressed concern with the expenses of maintaining the area.



County Manager Murphy agreed that the language was somewhat ambiguous. He stated the expenses to date had been minimal. He stated any future funding would increase the requirement and bring additional maintenance.

Commissioner Storter Long stated she did not know what the mitigation plan was and would not support this item without it.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Ahern seconded by Commissioner Strenth the Board adopted Glades County Resolution No. 2019-3, establishing a line item in future annual operating budgets beginning in FY 2019-2020 in an amount sufficient to ensure conditions specific to the success of the Mitigation Plan; providing for scrivener's errors; providing for conflicts; providing for liberal construction; providing for severability; providing for an effective date; and authorized the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Board.

Motion carried by 4 – 1 vote.

Commissioner Storter Long opposed the motion on the floor.

**7. Budget Transfer Request – Court Administration**

Tiffany Patterson, Finance Director, stated Dawn Oliver, Court Operations Manager, had requested a transfer in the amount of \$7,988.00 from the General Fund Court Facilities Surcharge to Court Administration for the purchase of a new server for Court Administration.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Commissioner Ahern the Board approved the transfer of an amount up to \$7,988.00 from General Fund Court Facilities Surcharge to Court Administration for the purchase of a new server.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

**8. RFP 2018-10 – Derelict Vessel Removal Grant**

County Manager Murphy stated the County had put out an RFP to solicit proposals for the removal of a derelict vessel that was eligible under the Derelict Vessel Removal Grant program.

Susan BuChans, Community Development Director, stated one proposal in the amount of \$74,781.00 had been submitted by Kelly Brothers in response to the RFP. She stated the FWC grant would require the County pay a cost share in the amount of 25%. She stated the grant did allow for in-kind services up to 10%. She stated the County would be paying \$18,718.00 (25%) or \$11,231.00 (15%) if the County provided 10% of in-kind services. She stated she had met with the County Manager and the Public Works Director to see if there was any in-kind services that the County could provide. She stated while reviewing the RFP, Archie Branch, Public Works Director, had indicated that he had the staff and the equipment available to perform this work. She stated Mr. Branch had estimated the costs in the amount of \$8,000.00 - \$10,000.00. She stated she had

provided each Commissioner with a copy of the breakdown of costs submitted by Mr. Branch. She stated this project should take approximately 4 days to complete. She stated this project would be funded from the Public Works budget if they did the work. She stated the funding would come from the General Fund if the Board chose to complete the project using the grant funds.

Mr. Branch stated his crew would follow the guidelines for removal of the vessel from a navigable waterway.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Commissioner Ahern the Board rejected the proposal received from Kelly Brothers for RFP2018-10 – Derelict Vessel Removal Grant in the amount of \$74,871.00.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Commissioner Pryor the Board authorized County Manager Murphy to direct Archie Branch, Public Works Director, to plan and take the necessary steps to remove and dispose of the derelict vessel located in the Hickpochee Basin and Caloosahatchee Canal.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

Commissioner Storter Long asked Mr. Branch to figure the estimated costs for removal of the vessel located near Schooner Lane.

Mr. Branch stated he would get the figures to Commissioner Storter Long as soon as possible.

Mrs. BuChans stated she had spoken with the Corps again after receiving a telephone call from Commissioner Storter Long. She stated the Corps was going to send a Park Ranger to look at the boat and see if there was anything they could do.

Commissioner Stanley stated there was a submerged roof in the canal at Buckhead Ridge. He asked who would be able to take care of this issue.

Mr. Branch asked if the roof was located on private property.

Commissioner Stanley stated there was private property all around it.

Mr. Branch asked that Commissioner Stanley email him the property address so that he could go assess the situation.

**9. Criminal Justice, Mental Health and Substance Abuse (CJMHS) Reinvestment Grant**

Kevin Mace, Hanley Foundation, requested a letter of support to write for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant program. He stated

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Glades County would be joining Okeechobee and Hendry Counties efforts with the grant. He stated the grant would be used to bring all stakeholders together so that the needs could be assessed in Glades, Hendry, and Okeechobee Counties. He stated the process had already started in Hendry County. He stated this grant amounted to \$130,000.00 for a 12 month period. He stated the end result of this would be to develop a plan that would be available to use in all 3 counties, for example, a mobile crisis unit or a triage center. He stated the Hanley Foundation was based out of West Palm Beach and provided prevention services in middle schools and high schools in 19 different counties. He stated he was the Regional Coordinator for Manatee, Glades, Hendry, Collier, Highlands, DeSoto, and Lee Counties. He stated there were 14 staff members in those areas. He stated the Foundation also provided active parenting programs and worked very closely with all of the drug free coalitions within the named counties. He stated the Foundation provided services to over 40,000 youth and adults in the South Florida region.

Chairman Stanley questioned the matching funds.

Mr. Mace stated the matching funds would be limited to in-kind services. He stated the matching funds could be combined with the other 2 counties as well.

Commissioner Storter Long stated she would certainly support this cause and would be willing to serve on the committee, if needed.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Vice Chairman Pryor the Board approved a Letter of Support for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health and Substance Abuse (CJMHTSA) Reinvestment Grant; the grant is for the purpose of assessing Glades County for possible funding to enhance treatment services for adults and juveniles who have a mental illness, substance use disorder, or co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders; and authorized the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Board.

Commissioner Storter Long referred to Section 1.4 – Local Match Requirements (3) and clarified that a cash match was not required.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

### **10. Citizen Application for the Library Board**

County Manager Murphy stated Susan Whidden was interested in serving on the Library Advisory Board as a resident member.

Commissioner Storter Long asked how many vacancies the Board currently had.

Susan Whidden, Administrative Assistant, stated Sandy Lundy who serves on the Board had asked her to serve. She stated she was not sure how many vacancies the Board currently had.

ON MOTION of Vice Chairman Pryor seconded by Commissioner Storter Long the Board appointed Susan Whidden to the Library Advisory Board for a term of 2 years.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

**CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS / DEPARTMENT HEADS**

David Hardin, Sheriff, stated the first meeting of the Glades County Sheriff's Office Explorer Program was held this past Thursday. He stated there were 8 young people in attendance from the ages of 14 – 18. He stated there was room for more and he was very proud of the young people that were showing an interest in the program.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

There was no discussion.

**COUNTY MANAGER**

County Manager Murphy stated Natalie Cole, Water Management District, and John Curtis, Johnson Engineering, had conducted an on-site inspection of the wetlands mitigation area at the Business Park. He stated the County had received a letter of non-compliance from the Water Management District after this visit. He stated Johnson Engineering had submitted a supplemental agreement to provide a cost estimate for 2 mitigation options in response to the letter of non-compliance. He stated the first option would be to bring the on-site mitigation area back into compliance with the District's permit conditions. He stated there would be an annual cost for the monitoring reports and an annual cost of approximately \$10,000.00 for Applied Aquatics to maintain that area. He stated the County had expended \$20,500.00 on maintenance spraying to Applied Aquatics from the issuance of the permit in 2014 to the end of 2018. He stated the County had spent \$13,000.00 to Johnson Engineering for the monitoring reports. He stated if the monitoring and spraying continued over the next 5 years approximately \$67,000.00 would be spent. He stated the second option was for the County to pay Johnson Engineering \$2,000.00 to explore the option of purchasing credits from the wetlands bank which would eliminate the monitoring and mitigation spraying. He noted that the purchase of credits were very expensive.

Commissioner Storter Long stated she believed the credits could be purchased for about the same price as what the County was already paying for the monitoring and spraying for 2 years.

It was the consensus of the Board to contract with Johnson Engineering to explore the option of purchasing credits from the wetlands bank.

County Manager Murphy stated Aim Engineering had submitted the detailed monitoring report for the Moore Haven Canal. He stated this week staff had submitted a total of 7 FDOT funding applications under the SCRAP Program. He stated the projects totaled almost \$2 million and involved the milling and resurfacing of approximately 6.5 miles of roadway containing sections of Crescent Road, Cornelia Drive, Lake Drive West, Linda Road, Loop Circle, Hunter Road, and CR 78B. He stated he would be bringing this list of roads back to the Board so that they could be prioritized. He stated the Law Firm of Roper and Roper had been representing the County in the matter of *Joel Price vs. Glades*

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*County* – alleging violation of Title 2 of the ADA, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. He stated the firm had been authorized to settle the case for an amount of \$11,000.00 with the County having 24 months to become ADA compliant on the website. He stated this offer would be made to the Plaintiff. He noted that if the claim was settled the County would only be protected from another suit filed by Joel Price. He stated the County had taken all preventative measures known at this time to correct the non-compliance.

Chairman Stanley asked about the Constitutional Officer's websites being ADA compliant.

County Manager Murphy stated they could potentially be sued as well. He stated one of the first steps the County had taken was to put a disclaimer on its website. He stated he had received a letter from Eva Velez, Division Director – Everglades Policy & Coordination for Water Management District regarding the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project. He stated this pertained to the proposed storage area in Buckhead Ridge. He stated Ms. Velez had provided a map of the area and had counter-proposed providing a 1,000 foot set back area for approximately .08 mile along side of Highway 78.

### **PUBLIC INPUT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Neil Chapman, resident of Moore Haven, commented on the problems with getting volunteer fire fighters in Glades County. He stated he had provided 8 courses, free of charge, over the last several years. He stated the course was for Fire Fighter I and the person would still have to attend college to obtain the Fire Fighter II status. He stated he would really like to see the course offered through the school so at least the County would have some Fire Fighter I volunteers. He explained that a Fire Fighter I could do the same things a Fire Fighter II could do; however the Fire Fighter I could not be a paid fire fighter. He stated they could be paid per call or a stipend.

### **COMMISSIONERS ITEMS AND COMMENTS**

Commissioner Strenth thanked everyone for attending the Sour Orange Festival on Saturday. He stated the event had turned out well.

Commissioner Ahern stated the population at GCDC had been good; however, due to the government shutdown, no payments had been received. He stated the County inmate population was at 53 which was a little over what they liked to see. He stated he and Attorney Pringle continued to work on the hotel ground lease agreement. He commented on a meeting that he had attended with Scott Bass, Mike Pressley, and a representative from the tech school in Collier County regarding funding for the Training Center. He stated they had also met with the Department of Education and the Department of Economic Opportunity. He stated on Wednesday, County Manager Murphy, the City Manager, and Brett Whidden would be meeting with the aides from Senator Rubio, Senator Scott, and Congressman Steube's offices regarding additional funding for the Moore Haven Canal and the sewer project on the south side of town.

Commissioner Storter Long stated the Ortona Community Association had hosted a very successful spaghetti dinner. She stated 316 dinners had been served. She commented

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on an unfortunate accident that had occurred during the dinner. She stated there were parking bumpers in the parking lot and that she would like to see these removed. She invited everyone to attend the Cane Grinding Festival on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. She stated the Ortona Community Association would host its annual membership meeting and dinner on January 31<sup>st</sup> and everyone was invited to attend.

Vice Chairman Pryor invited everyone to attend the County's Legislative Delegation meeting on February 27, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. in the Board Room.

Chairman Stanley invited everyone to attend the Buckhead Ridge Homeowners' Association meeting on January 31<sup>st</sup>. He stated the Game Commission was going to be doing some burning in the Buckhead Ridge area this week. He stated FWC would be making a presentation at the next Board meeting regarding the spraying on the Lake. He commented on some of the residents in Buckhead Ridge being more concerned about having a coroner than additional fire services. He stated when someone was killed in an accident out there, the body sometimes laid there for hours on the side of the road.

Mr. Jones stated after the investigation was complete the body was usually transported by a body retrieval company.

Chairman Stanley stated the Indian Prairie Canal boat ramp was in bad shape. He stated he had been told by one of his constituents that he had contacted the Game Commission and was told that the ramp belonged to the Water Management District. He stated he would like to find out who owned the ramp and get some repairs going. He reminded everyone of tomorrow night's joint meeting with the City of Moore Haven and School Board at the Training Center beginning at 5:00 p.m.

### **ADJOURN**

ON MOTION of Commissioner Ahern seconded by Commissioner Strenth the Board adjourned the meeting.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Stanley adjourned the meeting at 8:41 p.m.

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Tim Stanley, Chairman

ATTEST:

  
  

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GLADES COUNTY COMMISSION – JANUARY 28, 2019 REGULAR MEETING

Sandra H. Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court

Approved: March 12, 2019

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