

MINUTES OF THE GLADES COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2019 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, February 12, 2019
at 9:00 a.m. with the following Commissioners present:

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

Others present:

Julie Mann Braddock, Administrative Secretary
Richard Pringle, County Attorney
Tiffany Patterson, Finance Director
Martin Murphy, County Manager
Bob Jones, Public Safety Director
Angie Snow-Colegrove, Emergency Management Director
Susan BuChans, Community Development Director
David Hardin, Glades County Sheriff
Archie Branch, Public Works Director
Christopher Felker, Glades County Democrat
Lorie Ward, Glades County Property Appraiser
Glades County Property Appraiser's Staff
Gail Jones, Glades County Tax Collector
Laura Mathis, Deputy Tax Collector
Paul MCGahee, TDC and Glades Electric
Matthew Howard, AIM Engineering
Steven Dobbs, Steven L. Dobbs Engineering, LLC
Gabrielle Ibietatorremendia, Human Resources Director
Tracy Whirls, EDC Executive Director
Tommy Perry, Johnson-Prewitt & Associates, Inc.
20 citizens

CALL TO ORDER

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

PRAYER

Commissioner 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.

There were none.

PRESENTATIONS / AWARDS

1. Service Award

Lorie Ward, Glades County Property Appraiser, came forward to present a plaque to Marina Langdale for 25 years of service. She stated Mrs. Langdale was first hired as a part time field appraiser by her predecessor, Larry Luckey. She stated that after only 4 months Mrs. Langdale advanced to a full time position as data entry and 6 months later, she filled a mapping position and was the Mapping Supervisor for 7 years. She stated Mrs. Langdale received her Certified Florida Evaluator designation from the Florida Department of Revenue. She stated that in 2000 when Joann Greer left the Property Appraiser's office to become Tax Collector, Mrs. Langdale filled her position as Senior Property Appraiser over tax roll approval and finance. She stated when she was elected 6 years ago she had appointed Mrs. Langdale as her Chief Deputy Property Appraiser. She stated this was one of the best decisions she had ever made. She complimented Mrs. Langdale on her abilities and contributions to the Property Appraiser's Office. She thanked Mrs. Langdale for her continued commitment to the Property Appraiser's Office.

Marina Landgale thanked Mrs. Ward for the opportunity to work with her for the residents of Glades County. She also thanked her co-workers.

2. Invasive Plant Management Lake Okeechobee Presentation by FWC

Matt Phillips, Biologist – Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission – Invasive Plant Management Section, stated he had been a biologist for 27 years and had spent part of his time in Central and South Florida but was now working in Tallahassee. He gave a brief overview of the program. He introduced Jon Lane, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Francois Laroche, South Florida Water Management District. He stated these 2 entities were valuable partners in the management of invasive plant species. He gave a brief overview of the invasive plant management program on Lake Okeechobee. He stated there were 4 main categories of tools used to manage invasive plants: biological control, chemical control, mechanical control, and physical control. He stated there were 2 main programs – terrestrial and aquatic. He gave an overview of the terrestrial program throughout the State. He stated this program runs initial and maintenance control of invasive plants on any public conservation land. He stated this constituted approximately 11 million acres of Florida land. He stated approximately 160 projects were funded annually. He stated the aquatic program included 463 lakes and rivers. He stated this program funded approximately 350 active management programs or 1.26 million acres of water. He stated these waters included sovereign submerged lands, public boat ramps, and fish/wildlife management areas. He gave a brief overview of the key differences in the 2 programs. He stated the aquatic program was a very science oriented program. He stated a lot of the decisions made were based on science. He stated over 272 projects had been funded since 1971 with research partners around the southeast and major institutions, such as the University of Florida, LSU, and North Carolina State.

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Chairman Stanley stated a lot of people ask him to sign petitions to stop the spraying on the Lake. He stated he would like the public to be more informed about the spraying and what the goal was. He stated fishing was not real good on the Lake right now and everyone was complaining that there was hardly no hydrilla. He asked that Mr. Phillips explain the spraying process to the citizens and what would happen if the vegetation was allowed to grow naturally.

Mr. Phillips stated water hyacinths and water lettuce were the 2 main floating plants that they controlled on Lake Okeechobee. He stated these plants were actively growing and creating muck. He stated these plants were shedding leaves and root material to the bottom of the Lake on a daily basis. He stated if one acre of hyacinths were sprayed it would put one acre of muck material on the bottom of the Lake. He stated if you allowed that same one acre of hyacinths to grow during the growing season you would put over 4 times the amount of muck material on the bottom of the Lake. He stated hyacinths doubled in weight in as little as 7 – 10 days. He stated this was a very fast growing plant. He stated he realized that there was a nutrient issue throughout the Everglades Region. He handed out a flyer regarding the removal of aquatic growth in Lake Okeechobee. (Exhibit 1)

Vice Chairman Pryor asked if hydrilla was being sprayed as well.

Mr. Phillips stated they were not. He stated the last large scale hydrilla treatment done in this region was in 1991. He stated since then the only hydrilla control that had been done was in 2016 at access points such as the Pearce Canal.

Vice Chairman Pryor stated the water was crystal clear on the Lake where there was hydrilla.

Mr. Phillips stated the Lake had a lot of submersed vegetation such as eel grass, pond weed, coon tail, and hydrilla that would come and go naturally on its own. He stated high water events such as storms creates a turbid water that kills submersed vegetation. He stated more submersed vegetation was needed on the Lake. He stated FWC wanted to see the water on the Lake maintained between 12 – 15.5 feet. He stated there were issues with it killing marsh vegetation when too high. He stated when the water was low more light reached the bottom and was good for submersed vegetation growth.

Commissioner Storter Long asked what chemical was normally used for the spraying of hyacinths.

Mr. Phillips stated there were 4 main products used for floating plant control: Dyquat, 2,4-D Amine, Penoxsulam, and Flumioxazin. He stated the products were much more selective now. He explained that these products could be used on certain invasive plants with no impact on native plants.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if there was any new application process so that there was no over-spray. She asked how controlled the spraying was.

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Mr. Phillips explained that a biologist goes out and finds the invasive species and then directs the contractor to spray that area.

Commissioner Storter Long questioned control of the contractor's herbicide mixture.

Mr. Phillips stated the Department of Agriculture regulated FWC, as well as private applicators. He stated complaints had been filed and investigated in the past. He stated the investigator checks all of the equipment and mixtures. He stated they also take samples of the mixture.

Commissioner Storter Long questioned the toxicity of the herbicides being used.

Mr. Phillips stated the regulatory authorities for that would be the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. He stated they regulated all of that information. He stated all of the products used in the water would break down eventually.

Chairman Stanley asked if the Lake Okeechobee Task Force meetings were open to the public.

Mr. Phillips stated the meetings were open to the public. He stated the Task Force met once every 2 months.

Jon Lane, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, stated the meetings were held from Clewiston to Okeechobee and sometimes Lehigh Acres.

Chairman Stanley asked if FWC had any plans to plant submerged vegetation on the Lake.

Mr. Phillips stated this had been done in the past. He stated the question was how impactful this could be on a resource the size of the Lake.

Chairman Stanley stated he had given considerable thought as to what happened to the hydrilla on the Lake. He stated the canals in Buckhead Ridge were filled with hydrilla for years and the Water Management District treated it. He stated the spraying stopped years ago. He stated there were no extreme levels of water in the rim canals and questioned why it would not be growing like it did in the past.

Mr. Phillips stated he did not have an answer to that question. He stated there were several theories why hydrilla had stopped growing in the Lake but FWC liked to base their programs on science.

There was a brief discussion about the environmental factors that may be contributing to the loss of hydrilla.

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Chairman Stanley asked if there was a website that showed a schedule of when the spraying would take place and what was being sprayed.

Mr. Phillips stated the schedule could be found on www.myfwc.com. He stated the University of Florida – IFAS had a web page at <https://plants.ifas.ufl.edu> that had a lot of information about plant management.

Mr. Lane stated there were times when there would be more than one agency on the Lake doing treatments.

Vice Chairman Pryor commented on burning the Lake and why this method was not used more often.

Mr. Phillips stated FWC had to get authorization prior to burning. He stated it was tough to get large acre burns authorized. He stated FWC was actively working with all of their partners, including the Forestry Service, to do more burns. He stated burning was a great tool.

Mr. Lane stated there was a contingency plan for burning on the Lake; however, they never reached the thresholds due to lake levels, winds, timing, etc. He stated all conditions had to be right.

Chairman Stanley asked when the next aquatics meeting would be.

Mr. Phillips stated they had just met in Okeechobee last week and the next meeting was scheduled for next Wednesday in Sebring at the Burt Harris Agricultural Center.

Chairman Stanley called for public input.

John Williamson, resident of Muse, commented on tilapia keeping the invasive plants out of his pond.

Commissioner Strenth asked how Applied Aquatics was paid for their spraying services.

Mr. Phillips stated they were paid by their time on the water.

Commissioner Strenth stated several of the residents in Lakeport fished the Lake a lot and they had made videos of people working for Applied Aquatics spraying in open water. He asked what they would be spraying.

Mr. Phillips stated he would like to see these videos. He stated if anyone had any concerns they should be brought to FWC and the issues would be taken care of. He stated without seeing the video he was not sure what they would have been spraying. He stated they may have been spraying for *Azolla pinnata*, which is an invasive plant that requires target spraying.

Commissioner Ahern stated he appreciated the very informative presentation. He stated he and Commissioner Strenth had attended a meeting in Clewiston last night hosted by the Army Corps of Engineers. He stated he was glad to hear that scientific data was being used to determine the lake levels and not political issues.

Mr. Phillips introduced Jon Lane, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Danielle Kirkland, Head of Field Operations (FWC); Francois Laroche, South Florida Water Management District; Jessica “Skippy” Fair, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Tyler Green, Biologist - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Okeechobee); Andrea Dominguez, Fishery Biologist for Lake Okeechobee; and Stacy Wilson, Deputy Director – Division of Florida Fisheries Management. He stated public comments could be made on the website invasiveplants@myfwc.com.

3. Presentation by the Center of Public Safety Management

Thomas Wieczorek, Center for Public Safety Management, LLC, stated Glades County was not unique. He stated a lot of counties, cities, and municipalities were dealing with the same issues. He stated Glades County was approximately 720 square miles with small population centers around the County. He stated this would complicate how the services were delivered. He commented on the amount of EMS runs increasing and the amount of fire runs decreasing. He stated he had been able to meet with a couple of the elected officials and tour the community. He commented on the difficulty in attracting and retaining volunteers. He stated his firm usually took a management perspective approach when assessing needs. He stated his firm would start with doing a forensic audit of performance. He stated from there they would look at a needs assessment and a financial assessment. He stated one of the challenges with an MSBU was determining what people could afford. He stated the firm would then put together a series of recommendations and provide them to the Board.

Vice Chairman Pryor stated he had met with Mr. Wieczorek on Friday and discussed several options including a federal grant that would fund a full time staff position to recruit volunteers. He stated he was intrigued with this idea.

Chairman Stanley stated the County was already paying the expense of the station at Muse. He stated that station was currently manned by 2 paramedics. He suggested hiring a fireman there or making those paramedics become certified fire fighters as well. He stated the Moore Haven station had 6 paramedics there. He stated the County would only need 4 more people to man 3 stations. He stated hiring 36 new employees was not feasible. He suggested re-training the employees that the County already had.

Commissioner Strenth commented on a news broadcast he had watched regarding how the number of volunteer firemen was decreasing. He stated the numbers had decreased over the years from 300,000 down to 38,000. He stated he believed the County could staff one more station and be set.

Chairman Stanley stated he had met with Mr. Jones and the Okeechobee County Fire Chief and they were concerned with the number of calls they were covering in Buckhead

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Ridge. He stated they would like to know there was backup coming from Glades County. He stated they had indicated that they may be interested in doing a joint (Glades & Okeechobee) firehouse in that area. He stated Muse had put in a request to build a new fire department/ambulance barn at the end of Kirby Thompson Road at the County line.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if Mr. Wiczorek's firm was one that could come and do an in depth study to determine the MSBU, the level of service, etc. She asked where Mr. Wiczorek thought the 3 stations should be located within Glades County.

Mr. Wiczorek stated usually a station should be located where it could serve approximately 10,000 people. He stated most of the communities in Glades County had a population of 2,500 or less. He stated 10,000 people generated, on average, 3 calls (fire/ems) per day. He stated the County would really want to study the area prior to building a new station. He stated some counties/cities were going to mobile units versus fixed stations. He stated by putting them in mobile units they could get by with less Paramedics and for about 85% of the calls you didn't need a paramedic. He stated these calls were normally BLS (Basic Life Support). He stated by putting them in an SUV you get them there quicker than a big fire truck and they could be moved during different times of the day. He stated this had worked well for Fargo, North Dakota and Moore Head, Minnesota. He stated these 2 states shared services. He stated they deployed their ambulance service at different levels 24 hours a day. He stated they were constantly adjusting the staffing and moving units. He stated Glades County had a lot of people coming in and out of the County daily for work. He stated the County needed to position its resources. He stated the same level was not needed 24/7. He stated the call would start with dispatch. He stated that was where he would start with analyzing the data here. He stated he would make sure dispatch was capable of screening the calls and then target the right resource to dispatch.

Commissioner Storter Long asked who would make the decision as to whether a Paramedic was needed or not.

Mr. Wiczorek stated the dispatch center would start the process. He stated there were protocols that were followed.

Commissioner Storter Long stated dispatch would need training for this.

Mr. Wiczorek stated there was a software program that could be used and staff could be trained. He stated the "in the field" staff could certainly override dispatch and call in additional services or step back the services needed.

Commissioner Storter Long asked about the issues with volunteers and questioned it being a national problem.

Mr. Wiczorek stated this was a national problem. He stated people were working more and the training level of fire and EMS personnel had increased. He stated to be a Paramedic you would train for 1,000 hours and 240 hours for basic fire training. He stated

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it was a lot to expect of people to come in and work 1,200 hours and not be paid for it. He stated it was nearly impossible to have a personal life. He stated the other challenge you had was as stations got busier it deterred volunteers. He stated the number one reason for people volunteering their time was to give back to their community. He commented on a study that had been done that showed that paying volunteers a stipend or per call did not attract more of them, nor did it retain them. He stated they simply wanted to make a contribution to the community. He stated in Leduc, Alberta (Canada) they had hired a woman to manage their volunteers. He stated the County had a population of 13,000 and had 130 volunteers. He stated she was constantly organizing activities for the volunteers and their families.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if these were the same issues Glades County was facing. She asked if Mr. Wieczorek had met with Bob Jones, Public Safety Director. She stated these issues did not seem to match the concerns she had been hearing. She asked how effective the federal grant to recruit volunteers had been.

Mr. Wieczorek stated he had not met with Mr. Jones yet. He stated the federal grant had been proven up in Canada. He stated an area was targeted and someone was hired to manage it and it had worked well. He stated this duty was normally assigned to the Fire Chief. He stated the Fire Chief was usually managing staff and doing other duties. He stated this position needed a unique person.

Commissioner Storter Long stated Mr. Jones had informed the Board at every meeting that whatever was implemented here in Glades County, we were still going to need volunteers. She stated the numbers were low and not growing.

Mr. Wieczorek stated it took a constant effort to identify volunteers at your schools and throughout your communities. He stated as new businesses came in or residents moved in, you would need someone to target these people. He stated the County's Public Works Department was an excellent place to identify volunteers. He stated a community in Michigan had trained all of their Public Works staff to be fire fighters. He stated these people were working during the day and were allowed to respond to calls.

Commissioner Storter Long stated she believed this idea had been brought up; however, there had been no interest.

Commissioner Ahern stated he believed this idea should be brought up again. He stated the County, City and School all had Public Works employees. He stated maybe all of them should be asked to volunteer.

Mr. Wieczorek stated the schools were an excellent place to recruit volunteers. He stated little league volunteers obviously wanted to give back to their community and these were the type of people to target.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if Mr. Wieczorek could give the Board an estimate on what a study would cost.

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Mr. Weiczorek stated a rough estimate would be \$39,000.00. He stated he had reviewed the prior study done in 2014 and it had not gone into the level of detail that he would. He commented again on hiring an individual to recruit volunteers.

Bob Jones, Public Safety Director, stated the State had offered a recruiting program in Glades County about 5 years ago and had gotten 1 volunteer out of the program.

Chairman Stanley asked if the \$39,000.00 cost would include an assessment study, feasibility study, and recommendations as to where to place the stations. He stated the last study had only shown the assessment that should be made.

Mr. Weiczorek stated his firm would provide a series of recommendations. He stated growth patterns would be analyzed.

Commissioner Storter Long commented on a lawsuit the County had been involved in over a MSTU for medical services. She stated the County had lost the suit. She stated the RV Park residents had objected to paying and had won. She asked how the RV Parks would pay on this assessment and if everyone would pay the same.

Mr. Weiczorek stated he would look at the nature of calls received.

There was a brief discussion regarding responding with lights and sirens on every call.

County Manager Murphy asked what some of the components of the assessment would be and what kind of information Mr. Weiczorek would need to complete the study for the County.

Mr. Weiczorek stated he would start with a performance analysis. He stated this would be gathered from the dispatch center and raw CAD data. He stated he would make sure this information was being recorded properly. He stated he would then look at all of the regular operations and from that he could map with GIS where the calls for service were, the type of calls, and if there were frequent calls in one area. He stated then the times for service would be analyzed and a time curve would be made. He stated the response times would be reviewed, as well as, how many people were responding. He stated he would send a team out to review the fire and EMS policies and procedures and make sure the facilities met the standards. He stated he would then present a full package to the Board. He stated from this information a needs assessment and financial assessment would be made. He stated the recommendations would be tiered out. He stated he would meet with staff and the Board along the way to see if there were areas they wanted to drill down in. He stated he would interview stakeholders and the Commissioners to see what level of service was expected. He stated from all of this he would recommend that the Board adopt a standard response cover. He stated this would tell everyone in the community the level of service that the County was able to provide and expect. He stated if the community wanted to improve the level of service they would provide the options and the assessment that would need to be paid. He stated 4 service level areas would

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be reviewed: urban, suburban, rural, and remote. He stated remote would have a longer response time.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if the idea of districting would be addressed in the study.

Mr. Weiczorek stated he could certainly do this.

County Manager Murphy asked where or how ISO ratings would figure into this whole process.

Mr. Weiczorek explained that the biggest challenge with ISO ratings was the County's water system. He stated 40% of an ISO rating was determined by what water sources were available. He stated if there was no potable water system nearby the rating would most likely never get above a 6 or 7. He stated in the rural areas the rating would be around a 9. He stated you could make up for not having a potable water source if you had enough tankers in the area. He stated the likelihood of getting a better ISO rating was slim to none if you did not have a hydrant system.

Commissioner Strenth asked about contracting fire services. He asked if there was such a thing and if there would be an advantage to that.

Mr. Weiczorek stated this was an option. He stated the biggest thing you had to consider was if the contractor would make any money because it was a private service. He stated EMS services were probably contracted out more often because they could bill. He stated there was really not much that could be billed in the fire services area.

County Manager Murphy asked if the study would be specifically for fire or if it would include EMS.

Mr. Weiczorek stated it would include both.

County Manager Murphy asked how divergent a fire system would be from an EMS.

Mr. Weiczorek stated today they were almost combined. He stated they were going on the same runs and were usually deployed out of the same station and using the same resources. He stated it would take about 3 months for the data team to gather all of the information needed to do the study. He stated his staff would provide recommendations and policy options. He stated his firm would also be available as a resource to the County's Manager and team afterwards.

There was a brief discussion about ISO ratings.

Commissioner Strenth stated he believed the study should be done.

Commissioner Storter Long stated she would like to see the offer in writing first.

Chairman Stanley stated he appreciated the presentation.

Commissioner Starter Long asked Attorney Pringle if this would cover the needs assessment that he had mentioned in a previous meeting.

Attorney Pringle stated this would cover the needs assessment element, as well, as the dispatch element and funding element. He stated this was even broader than what he had mentioned. He stated the GSG study only related to the assessment side and did not address the needs assessment at all.

County Manager Murphy asked if this study would include staffing recommendations and the level needed.

Mr. Weiczorek stated it would. He stated he would also provide draft copies along the way so that everyone was on the same page.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

4. RZ19-01 – Peoples and Storey, LLC

Vice Chairman Pryor stated he would abstain from voting on this item due to personal interests.

Attorney Pringle stated Vice Chairman Pryor had declared a voting conflict under Chapter 112 part 3 of the Florida Statutes. He stated this conflict was based upon a family relationship to the applicant. He stated Vice Chairman Pryor would not participate in the discussion or in the voting on this matter.

Chairman Stanley recessed the meeting at 11:06 a.m. to allow some of the staff to return to the meeting.

The meeting was reconvened at 11:13 a.m.

Chairman Stanley asked for ex parte communication disclosure from the Board. There was none.

Susan BuChans, Community Development Director, Tommy Perry, Johnson- Prewitt & Associates, Inc., and Chris McAvoy, Johnson-Prewitt & Associates, Inc. were sworn in by Attorney Pringle.

Mrs. BuChans stated Peoples & Storey, LLC – Case No. RZ19-01, was requesting a zoning use change from Open Use Agriculture (OUA) to Heavy Industrial (ID-2) on a 30 +/- acre site located on a 147 acre parcel. She stated the request would allow a fertilizer mixing facility on the 30 acre site. She stated the property was accessed by a private easement from US Hwy 27 and the nearest intersection was located at US Hwy 27 and SR 78. She stated staff had provided an amendment to the staff report and the Planning & Zoning Commission had voted to approve the amendment which was incorporated into

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the staff report. She stated the Planning & Zoning Commissioner had recommended approval of Case No. RZ 19-01. She pointed out that the Glades County Comprehensive Plan had a section in the Economic Development Element and the Future Land Use Element that stated if there was a development that was considered agricultural or target industry, the Comprehensive Plan was written so that it could be approved in OUA without having to make a Comprehensive Plan Amendment change. She stated a letter from the Acting County Manager at the time regarding this issue was also included in the packet. She stated this development would have frontage on a railroad. She stated this would help with delivery of the product. She stated this project would also be an economic driver for the County. She stated the applicant's agent was present to answer any questions.

Chairman Stanley asked about the access easement.

Mrs. BuChans stated the access was through a private easement that was owned by the property owner. She stated the roadway would be improved at the time of development in order to obtain the building permit.

Chairman Stanley asked who would be responsible for maintenance of the roadway.

Mrs. BuChans stated the property owners would be responsible for the maintenance.

Attorney Pringle explained that the County would only be responsible for maintenance if, at some point in the future, the easement (roadway) was dedicated to the public. He asked that the staff report (and amended staff report), staff recommendations, and the record from the Planning & Zoning Board hearing all be made a part of the record.

Mrs. BuChans read the title of the Ordinance into the record.

Tommy Perry, Johnson-Prewitt & Associates, Inc., stated this site had been chosen for strategic reasons. He stated the site was adjacent to the railroad and was centrally located to the service area. He stated this would be a small agribusiness, light manufacturing business and would provide several jobs to the area. He stated there was no intent for the access easement or private road to ever be maintained by the County.

County Manager Murphy asked if there was an estimate on the number of jobs that would be created.

Commissioner Ahern stated the application indicated that the facility would directly employ more than 17 people with an additional 10 or more contract personnel employed by others serving the facility (i.e. truck drivers, mechanics).

Chairman Stanley called for public input. There was none.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Ahern seconded by Commissioner Strenth the Board adopted Glades County Ordinance No. 2019-1 amending the official zoning map of Glades County from Open Use Agriculture to Heavy Industrial for 30.025 acres of a 147

acre parcel (Parcel ID # A25-41-31-A00-0020-0000) located in Moore Haven, Florida; Applicant and Property Owner – Peeples and Storey, LLC - Case No. RZ19-01 providing for conflict; providing for severability; providing for an effective date, based on the findings and analysis in the amended staff report dated January 11, 2019 and the findings presented at the public hearing.

Chairman Stanley called for a roll call vote:

Commissioner Storter Long – Yes

Commissioner Strenth – Yes

Commissioner Ahern – Yes

Chairman Stanley – Yes

Motion carried by 4 – 0 vote.

Vice Chairman Pryor abstained from the vote. (See Exhibit B)

Attorney Pringle asked that the application and all exhibits attached by made a part of the record. (See Exhibit C)

5. COMP19-01 Sandra Johnston and Tim Lewis

Mrs. BuChans stated the Community Development Department had received a request from Sandra Johnston and Tim Lewis to change the Future Land Use Designation for 1.79 from Residential to Commercial. She stated the existing zoning was Commercial General (C-2). She stated the purpose of the requested change was to provide consistency between the land use and the zoning designation. She stated the property currently had the correct zoning but not the correct land use.

Mrs. BuChans read the title of the Ordinance into the record. She stated this was considered a small scale plan amendment and would be submitted to the Department of Economic Opportunity for notification purposes only. She stated the applicant's agent was present should the Board have any questions.

Attorney Pringle asked if there were any other witnesses that needed to be sworn in. Sam Medina, Sloan Engineering Group was sworn in.

Attorney Pringle asked that the application and staff report be made a part of the record.

Sam Medina, Sloan Engineering Group, stated he did not have a presentation but fully concurred with staff's recommendation for approval.

Chairman Stanley asked what would be constructed on the site.

Commissioner Ahern stated the application showed construction of a Dollar General Store.

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Mr. Medina stated the site construction plans had been submitted and construction would begin in June if the application was approved by the Board.

Chairman Stanley called for public input. There was none.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Strenth seconded by Commissioner Starter Long the Board adopted Glades County Ordinance No. 2019-2 amending the Glades County Comprehensive Plan by revising the Future Land Use Map from Residential to Commercial for 1.79 acres of land located on SR 78 (Parcel ID # A23-40-32-A00-005D-0000); Property Owners – Sandra Johnston and Tim Lewis - Case No. COMP19-01 providing for inclusion of Ordinance and Revised Future Land Use Map in the Comprehensive Plan and providing for an effective date, based on the findings and analysis in the staff report dated December 29, 2018 and the findings presented at the public hearing.

Vice Chairman Pryor asked where this site was located on Hwy 78.

Commissioner Strenth stated the parcel was located almost directly across from the Countryside Café.

Commissioner Starter Long asked if there were any adjoining land owners present at the Planning & Zoning Board meeting.

Mrs. BuChans stated there were none present and there were no letters of objections submitted.

Attorney Pringle stated the Planning & Zoning Board had recommended approval of the application.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

6. COMP19-02 Elk Tree Farms

Mrs. BuChans asked that any additional witnesses for this case be sworn in at this time.

Attorney Pringle swore in the applicant and his engineer.

Mrs. BuChans stated this was a transmittal hearing for Case 19-02 Elk Tree Farms. She stated this application, if approved today, would be sent to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity for review and comments. She stated the application would then come before the Board for adoption. She stated the Planning & Zoning Board had voted to recommend approval at their January 8, 2019 meeting. She stated the applicant was requesting a change to the Future Land Use Map designation on 72 acres from Open Use Agriculture to Transition. She explained that the reason for the change was so that the applicant could develop the property according to the Transition Land Use. She stated this property was located at the Glades County and Hendry County boundary line. She

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pointed out that on page 7 of 41 she had made an error in her recommendation. She stated the recommendation should read to “Transition” and not “Industrial”.

Commissioner Storter Long questioned going to Transition and not Industrial use.

Mrs. BuChans stated the applicant planned to build some Commercial uses as well. She explained that the Transition use allowed for most of the County’s zoning districts.

Commissioner Storter Long asked why a Planned Development was not done instead.

Rock Aboujaoude, Applicant’s Engineer, stated the applicant felt that the Transitional use was more flexible and would allow them to do more with the property.

Attorney Pringle stated the Transitional use was a Comprehensive Plan category. He stated he had questioned the category as well because it was so unique. He stated that many properties in Glades County were not able to be designated one way or the other and the State of Florida had agreed to let the County have this unique designation so that properties could be placed there until development came to that area.

Mrs. BuChans thanked Attorney Pringle for his explanation. She stated a traffic study had been provided. She stated language was also included in the amendment that indicated that the applicant would work with Florida Department of Transportation, Glades County and Hendry County as the property was developed in the future. She stated Hendry County had prepared a Land Use Study for the Air Glades Airport. She stated the Miami Airport would be transferring some of its air cargo up to the Air Glades Airport. She stated based on that study, most of the land uses in that area would be changing from rural to urban. She stated Hendry County had been going through numerous Comprehensive Plan amendments. She stated she would be sharing this staff report with Hendry County.

Chairman Stanley called for public input. There was none.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Commissioner Pryor the Board recommended approval of the transmittal of Case No. COMP19-02 large scale plan amendment to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and review agencies for review and comments, based on the findings and analysis in the staff report dated January 3, 2019.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

7. RZ18-04 Harvey

Chairman Stanley called for ex parte communication disclosure from the Board members.

Vice Chairman Pryor, Commissioner Strenth, Commissioner Storter Long, and Commissioner Ahern all stated they had spoken with Mr. Dobbs regarding the development.

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Chairman Stanley stated he had spoken with Mr. Dobbs several times regarding the project as well.

Attorney Pringle stated the applicant had requested a 90 day continuance of this hearing. He stated staff was recommending approval of the request. He stated Glades County was continuing to work with the Water Management District to resolve ownership of Access Road.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Commissioner Ahern the Board approved the request for a 90 day extension for Case No. RZ18-04 (Harvey) to the Board of County Commissioners' May 12, 2019 day meeting.

Chairman Stanley called for public input. He stated Mr. Dobbs had signed up to speak regarding this matter.

Steven Dobbs, Steven L. Dobbs Engineering, LLC, stated he was the Applicant's Representative. He stated he had been given 3 options from South Florida Water Management District (WMD) when the issue ownership of Access Road had come up. He stated he realized that the County had attended several meetings with WMD regarding the road. He stated there had been a request to transfer the road to the County. He expressed concern with the requirement in the proposed ordinance that stated his client would have to obtain ownership of the road and bring it up to County standards then turn it over to the County. He stated he was not sure how WMD could declare the road excess property when it provided access to their pump station. He stated the only path he saw was for the County to take direct ownership of the road. He suggested making acceptance of the final plat contingent on the road being brought up to County standards. He stated the preliminary plat had to be completed so that construction could begin. He stated his client already had a turn lane permitted for internal access to the road. He stated it would be in everyone's interest to bring the road up to County standards. He stated, in his opinion, the best path would be for the County to take ownership of the road as soon as possible.

County Manager Murphy stated in his letter to WMD requesting the transfer of the road to the County he had included all of the improvements, including a turn lane off Highway 78.

Chairman Stanley stated the County did not want to end up with the road and then have WMD put all kinds of conditions on the maintenance of it. He stated that was why the proposed ordinance had directed that the developer would bring the road up to County standards.

Mr. Dobbs stated he was not sure why the WMD would ask the County to bring the road up to County standards. He stated his client was willing to work with Glades County to make sure this development happened.

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Commissioner Storter Long suggested that the language in the proposed ordinance be changed. She stated whether or not this project moved forward, she felt that Glades County needed to obtain ownership of Access Road.

Mr. Dobbs agreed.

Archie Branch, Public Works Director, questioned how much of the road would be transferred to the County. He asked if the road extended down to the curve and then to the locks.

Commissioner Storter Long stated the County would need to obtain a title search to determine this. She stated the 90 degree turns on that road were not up to County standards and it would cost the County to obtain the property so these could be straightened out some. She stated she did not feel the County should improve the road all the way to Highway 78.

Chairman Stanley stated the WMD could make all kinds of conditions on the transfer of the road.

Attorney Pringle stated this was the bigger problem. He stated before Mr. Harvey had made the application everyone thought the road belonged to the County. He stated now that WMD has ownership of the road they could do whatever they wanted with it. He stated he did not see WMD declaring the road surplus property when they were continuing to use it to access their property.

Commissioner Storter Long called for the question.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

8. **Approved payment of County Warrants. (Exhibit A)**
General Fund: 85016 – 85099
ACH Payments: 102 – 108
SHIP: 1781 – 1788
Intergovernmental Radio: 10374
EMS Award Grant: 1933
Tourism Development: 1064

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

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

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

9. Resolution with Seacoast Bank

Attorney Pringle stated this request was being made by the Clerk's Office. He stated the sole purpose of this resolution was to change the authorized signors on the bank accounts at Seacoast Bank. He stated the resolution would add Vice Chairman Pryor and Chairman Stanley and delete Commissioner Ahern.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Commissioner Ahern the Board adopted Glades County Resolution No. 2019-2, authorizing entering into commercial banking arrangements/agreements for the funds of Glades County.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

10. CDBG and SHIP Mortgage Satisfactions

Attorney Pringle stated Ms. Ricker could not attend today's meeting. He asked that the Board approve the following 2 satisfactions: Stephen Anderson SHIP - \$28,240.00 and Dorothy Hyatt CDBG - \$1,379.04. He stated all requirements had been satisfied on both mortgages.

ON MOTION of Vice Chairman Pryor seconded by Commissioner Storter Long the Board approved the satisfactions of the following mortgages: Stephen Anderson SHIP - \$28,240.00 and Dorothy Hyatt CDBG - \$1,379.04 and authorized the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Board.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

11. Library Advisory Board

County Manager Murphy requested that the Board accept the resignation letters from Gloria Reese and Tammra Harn from the Library Advisory Board and appoint Sommer Foster to the same board. He stated Mrs. Booher had provided a current listing of the Board members and the expiration dates of their terms.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Ahern seconded by Commissioner Storter Long the Board accepted the Letters of Resignation from Gloria Reese and Tammra Harn from the Library Advisory Board; appointed Sommer Foster to the Library Advisory Board and authorized the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Board.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

12. SunState CDL Lease Agreement

County Manager Murphy stated Glades County currently had a lease agreement with Suncoast Trucking Academy for space at the Glades County Training Center. He stated the partnership in this company was being dissolved and a new business had been formed under the name of Sunstate CDL, LLC. He stated this lease was written exactly the same as the previous lease with Suncoast Trucking Academy except for the term of

the lease. He stated the agreement before the Board today was for the remaining 3 years of the term and not the full 5 years.

ON MOTION of Vice Chairman Pryor seconded by Commissioner Ahern the Board approved the lease agreement between Glades County and Sunstate CDL, LLC and authorized the Chairman and County Manager to execute the agreement.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

13. Glades County Summer Camp

County Manager Murphy stated he had received a letter from Laura Perry, Executive Director of the Glades County Education Foundation, requesting that the Board consider financial support of the 2019 Summer Camp. He stated this camp would be held July 8 – July 26. He stated this was one week longer than last year's camp. He stated the camp would run Monday through Friday from 7:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. He stated the Glades County School District would be providing breakfast and lunch Monday through Thursday and would coordinate transportation for Friday field trips with lunch being served at the field trip destination. He stated the Foundation would be charging a \$50.00 fee per child per week. He stated Mrs. Perry had not stated a requested amount in her letter. He stated last year she had requested \$2,000.00 from the Board and the Board had not taken action. He stated Commissioner Strenth had donated \$2,000.00. He stated the Foundation had a fund balance of \$2,290.00 and had a projected costs of \$8,650.00.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if this request had been included in this year's budget.

County Manager Murphy stated there had been a discussion regarding this item during the budget hearings; however, a specific amount had not been determined and a specific line item under the Promotions budget had not been created.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if all of the other items in the Promotions budget had a specific line item and if there was enough funds in the budget to grant this request.

County Manager Murphy stated funds were earmarked for certain projects and he believed the balance was sufficient enough for this request.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Commissioner Strenth the Board approved a donation from the Promotions budget in the amount of \$2,000.00 to the Glades County Education Foundation to help cover the cost of the Glades County Summer Camp Program.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

14. Domestic Geographic Name Proposal Summary

Chairman Stanley stated he had received an email from Anthony Narehood of LaBelle stating that he had submitted a proposal to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names requesting that the spelling of the town called "Muce" in Glades County be corrected to

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“Muse”. He stated Mr. Narehood would need the Board’s recommendation on this matter in order to pursue the correction.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Commissioner Ahern the Board approved the name change from “Muce” to “Muse” and authorized the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Board.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

Sheriff Hardin stated there were currently 508 inmates at the jail facility. He stated of that total there were 52 County inmates, 36 U.S. Marshalls, and the remainder were ICE inmates.

Chairman Stanley asked if the Sheriff’s Office was still posting arrests on their website.

Sheriff Hardin stated they were. He stated the website had undergone an update recently to become ADA compliant and that this may have interfered with the search feature.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

Attorney Pringle stated he had notified the Board last month about a pending lawsuit related to the ADA compliance of the County’s website. He stated the suit was ongoing and the defense attorney had filed a Motion to Dismiss the complaint. He stated the discussions with New Moore Haven, LLC with regard to the new hotel site development were ongoing and continuing. He stated he had spoken with Mr. Cortez, his partner, their attorney, and the perspective lenders regarding the proposed ground lease. He stated New Moore Haven, LLC was reviewing the matter with the lenders and the USDA to make sure the financing could be approved under a ground lease agreement.

Commissioner Strenth asked how long ago the property had been granted to New Moore Haven, LLC.

Commissioner Ahern stated it had been several months. He stated part of the delay was with government shutdown and the lender being the USDA.

Commissioner Strenth asked if something could be done to speed up the process.

Attorney Pringle stated he would send a letter later on this week requesting an update.

COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Murphy congratulated Chairman Stanley and Commissioner Ahern on their appointment to the newly created Water Policy Committee. He stated the 2 Commissioners would join 35 County Commissioners from across the State to serve as the Florida Association of Counties’ voice when addressing water related policy concerns and provide a structure for the organization to recommend solutions. He stated the County was currently advertising for a full time Code Enforcement Officer with a starting salary range of \$22,880.00 - \$35,360.00. He stated the previous Code Enforcement

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Officer had or was in the process of relocating. He stated a total of 3 proposals had been received in response to the County's solicitation for the development of a comprehensive, current, and legally compliant Employee Handbook ranging in price from \$3,000.00 to \$27,000.00. He stated the Advisory Committee would review and rank the proposals and bring forth a recommendation at the next meeting. He stated the County had received an "after the fact" authorization of bank stabilization of 200 linear feet of shore line at the southern bank of the Harney Pond Recreation area. He stated this authorization satisfied one of the FEMA reimbursement requirements. He stated the County was seeking FEMA reimbursement of approximately \$37,000.00 between labor, equipment, materials, and engineering. He stated Eva Velez, from the Everglades Policy and Coordination Division of the Water Management District had been provided Attorney Pringle's contact information to be partnered with the appropriate Corps of Engineers counsel to complete the transfer of the Access Road off of Hwy 78. He stated the Corps had also requested a letter of support from this Board to the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project. He stated in response he had requested that they provide a draft letter for the Board's consideration. He stated the County had been granted an extension until April 15th to prepare a Corrective Action Plan intended to address non-compliance issues at the Business Park wetland area. He stated he had met with Johnson Engineering and Applied Aquatics to inspect the site and advised Applied Aquatics to discontinue their mitigation efforts until a Corrective Action Plan had been approved by the Water Management District. He stated the Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners adopted the annual rate resolution for Emergency Medical Services Tax Assessment within the MSBU for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2018 in accordance with their 2018-2019 rate schedule. He stated the rate of \$52.98 per parcel had increased to \$81.59 per parcel for those parcels within the MSBU, which was north of the Indian Prairie Canal. He stated about a dozen County employees had attended the Leadership Development Training session held last Friday at the public library. He stated this was the second in an ongoing series of professional development training sessions tailored to meet the needs of the County's management and supervisory employees. He stated recent heavy rain events had caused a couple of roof leaks, one at the Courthouse and one at the Training Center. He stated repairs had been made at the Training Center and the gutters on the Courthouse had been cleared of debris. He stated a recently downed power line had caused a temporary power outage in and around the Courthouse. He stated when the system was re-energized a power surge had damaged the newly installed electronic door/security system at the Doyle Conner building. He stated the contractor was systematically replacing components in hopes of salvaging some of the parts. He stated construction was progressing as scheduled on the first 2 Habitat for Humanity homes. He stated a wall raising was scheduled for Friday, February 26th. He stated their next monthly meeting would be held on the same day. He stated he, Chairman Stanley, and Bob Jones, Public Safety Director, had met with the Deputy Chief and Captain of the Okeechobee Fire Department to discuss topics of mutual interests and benefits (mutual aid support and the frequency of non-emergency calls). He stated Archie Branch, Public Works Director, was moving forward with the replacement of the deteriorated gangway leading to the floating aluminum dock at the Harney Pond Canal. He stated in the agenda packets the Commissioners would find the Animal Control Report that had been requested.

Chairman Stanley asked when construction would begin on the fire department building in Muse.

County Manager Murphy stated he was not sure of a date and was anticipating a change order on the project.

Chairman Stanley clarified that Okeechobee's MSBU was for ambulance service in Buckhead Ridge. He stated when the MSBU was increased in the County, they figured the residents they serve in Glades County and charge them the same amount.

15. Animal Control Report

There was no discussion.

PUBLIC INPUT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There was none.

COMMISSIONERS ITEMS AND COMMENTS

Commissioner Strenth commented on the video of Applied Aquatics employees spraying on the Lake. He stated he had been in contact with Sheila Madrigal regarding the mulch plant on the Reservation.

Commissioner Ahern stated he was continuing to work on getting additional funding for the Moore Haven Canal project and the permit. He stated he was also still pursuing additional funding for the wastewater project south of Moore Haven. He commented on attending the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's meeting regarding the lake levels. He stated the Corps would be determining the levels for the operating range. He stated mandatory garbage pickup had been discussed at the recent joint meeting with the School and City. He stated he would be looking at some ideas for the service. He stated there were quite a few people in the County that already had garbage service. He stated the more people were in the program, the cheaper the price would be.

Commissioner Storter Long stated Hendry County charged \$235.00 for twice a month garbage pickup and it included recycling. She stated the Ortona Community Association had hosted their famous spaghetti dinner and 316 people had attended. She stated the occupancy of the building was only 156. She stated the building was just not laid out for what it was being used for; however, it could be made safer. She stated the Ortona Community Association would be hosting another spaghetti dinner this weekend and invited everyone to attend.

Vice Chairman Pryor had no comments.

Chairman Stanley expressed concern with the lake level being set at 10.5 feet. He suggested that the Board draft a resolution in opposition to this. He stated that level would ruin the economy. He stated he had attended the most recent lake level meeting in Okeechobee and the Corps of Engineers Lieutenant wanted him to come over to the

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meetings on the coast and give the County's perspective on this matter. He stated this level would be detrimental to the County's economy.

Commissioner Storter Long suggested having a resolution regarding this matter drafted for consideration at the next meeting.

Commissioner Ahern agreed that a resolution was needed. He stated the fishermen, guides, farmers, etc. and they all had a stake in the well-being of the Lake.

Chairman Stanley stated the Board needed to talk to as many legislators as possible and explain the devastation that this would cause. He stated he was glad to see the new fertilizer plant and Dollar General Store coming into Glades County. He stated he had met with the Corps of Engineers and they were wanting to do an "algae eater" project on the Lake. He stated he would bring the matter to the Board later if they decided to do it. He stated the company was from Denmark and had a grant and needed a local sponsor. He stated this shouldn't cost the County anything. He stated he would get more details about the project and bring it back to the Board.

ADJOURN

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

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Ahern adjourned the meeting at 12:50 p.m.

Tim Stanley, Chairman

ATTEST:

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.