

MINUTES OF THE GLADES COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2018 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 13, 2018
at 9:00 a.m. with the following Commissioners present:

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

Others present:

Julie Mann Braddock, Administrative Secretary
Richard Pringle, County Attorney
Tiffany Patterson, Finance Director
Paul Carlisle, County Manager
Susan Whidden, E911 Coordinator/ BOCC Administrative Assistant
Bob Jones, Public Safety Director
Cindy Ritchter, SHIP Coordinator
Inga Williams, Community Development Director
David Hardin, Glades County Sheriff
Jerry Randolph, Public Works Director
Dr. Joe Pepe, Glades County Health Department
Gary Russ, Army Corps of Engineers
Christopher Felker, Glades County Democrat
Angie Snow-Colgrove, Emergency Management Director
Marisa Shivers, Assistant - Emergency Management
Aletris Farnam, Supervisor of Elections
6 citizens

CALL TO ORDER

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

PRAYER

Commissioner Storter Long gave the invocation.

PLEDGE

Vice Chairman Stanley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS

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

PRESENTATIONS / AWARDS

There were none.

PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS

1. Army Corps of Engineers Herbert Hoover Dike Presentation & Update

Gary Russ, Chief of the South Florida Operations Office, stated his office was located in Clewiston. He stated he was responsible for the 73 staff members that maintained and operated the OWW and Lake Okeechobee. He stated he would like to have a better working relationship with those communities around the Lake. He stated he was only responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Herbert Hoover Dike and the OWW from the Franklin locks to St. Lucie. He stated he had the ability to talk about other activities that the Corps did but he was not responsible for them. He stated there were 15 different equities behind the decisions made regarding the water in Lake Okeechobee. He stated his was only risk management. He gave a brief overview of the Lake's history. He stated 1 foot of water equaled 3 – 4 feet of elevation rise in the Lake. He stated the 1930's construction standards for the dike were not those of today. He stated this created an issue. He stated \$1.8 billion in funds had been set aside to upgrade the existing dike. He stated they were currently about half way. He stated the culverts were being updated. He commented on "straightening the river" and the damage done by doing so. He stated this made it harder to control the flow of water. He stated 17 inches of rain fell in early October. He stated Lake Okeechobee had been divided into different inundation zones. He stated these zones did not relate to one another and did not cross. He stated these zones were based on geology, geometry, and line safety. He stated they were evaluated on probability of failure and safety. He stated the Dike Safety Modification Report was finalized last summer. He stated the impact of it and the accreditation was submitted FEMA. He stated he made recommendations to FEMA; however, FEMA had the final decisions. He stated the cut off wall was coming to the Moore Haven area but it would take several years. He stated the report also affected the Lake Okeechobee Regulatory Schedule (LURS) and was tied to the level of the Lake and the forecast of future rains. He stated the report would be reviewed again in 2020 or somewhere in that time frame. He stated approximately \$870 million had been spent so far on improvements to the dike. He stated the dike was a 143 mile structure. He stated there would be 26 water control structures, of which, 18 were already under contracted. He stated the cutoff wall would be extended 6.8 miles from Belle Glade to Lake Harbor. He stated he expected this contract to be let in March. He stated an additional 28 miles would be installed from Lake O Harbor to Clewiston and then Moore Haven to Lakeport. He stated he was questioned frequently about the Lost Trail. He stated he would provide a map with some estimated dates of availability on different portions of the trail. He stated reevaluating the LURS did not mean that the Lake would go deeper. He stated there was a lot of discussion regarding moving the operating levels from the current 12.5 – 15 feet up to 17 feet. He stated this was not a guarantee. He stated the construction standards that were being done now were to make the dike safe at the Lake's current levels. He stated he was supposed to receive 7 structures last year and received zero. He stated the construction process had been slow and difficult. He stated he did however have a final inspection on one structure in 1A and a pre-final inspection on another in 4A.

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County Manager Carlisle asked if these improvements included the repaving of the sections around the Lake that were paved.

Mr. Russ stated this plan did include restoring the sections of pavement back to their original condition.

County Manager Carlisle stated he understood that there had been a meeting last year that changed the cutoff wall to some additional width on the dike or some other slope changes.

Mr. Russ stated the trail would also be a meter below the top of the dike. He stated the only change he was aware of was the change in depth. He stated the original depth had gone down about 70 feet and would now only go about 50 feet. He stated the last year had been historic for the Lake levels. He stated the high level had been 17.18 feet and the low level had been 10.93 feet. He stated the Lake was currently 15.18 feet and slowed down a lot. He stated the LURS did not allow for southward or eastward releases. He stated it was not so hot that the Lake water was evaporating much. He stated there was some confusion on the Corps responsibility and the WMD's responsibility. He stated again that he did not manage the water, only the risk. He stated the WMD had a lot of structures on the dike. He stated they managed the water in these structures.

Commissioner Storter Long stated the Corps was managing risk but the water was the risk.

Mr. Russ stated during flood season he did control the water management activities associated with the Lake because of the risk. He explained the wash board effect of the Lake. He stated the dike inspections were his responsibility. He referred to a slide that showed the poor construction of the dike in the 1930's and the 1960's. He stated the construction allowed for water conveyance. He stated he had staff that walked and rode the entire 143 mile dike and made inspections. He stated this was done on a monthly basis and more frequently when the Lake levels reached 15.5 feet. He stated these inspections were done daily at 16.5 feet. He stated he looked to identify issues before they became a problem. He stated the Army Corps of Engineers website was located at www.saj.usace.army.mil.

Commissioner Pryor asked who was responsible for Applied Aquatics spraying on the Lake.

Mr. Russ stated the Florida Wildlife Commission (FWC) was responsible for the spraying. He stated he was responsible for the maintenance of routes 1 & 2 on the Lake. He stated he paid FWC to take care of them and their contractor was Applied Aquatics.

Commissioner Pryor asked what the chances were that the Lake bottom would be burned again with controlled burns.

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Mr. Russ stated fire lanes were being done now on the west side of the Lake. He stated FWC wanted to get a burn done as quickly as possible.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if this burn would impede the progress of the Dike improvements.

Mr. Russ stated the burns would be very controlled.

Commissioner Storter Long commented on the sheet flow from the Lake to the River and stated a huge gully had been created in Ortona.

Mr. Russ stated he had pending construction in the area. He stated site visits had been done in the last week. He stated he was only responsible for a certain amount of land. He stated the scour that Commissioner Storter Long was referring to was at least 300 yards long, approximately 30 yards wide, and approximately 30 yards deep. He stated the property owner would be somewhat responsible for maintaining control of their property. He stated he would be responsible for the portion along the C-43. He stated it was not an issue to navigation at this point. He stated he was only responsible for the width of the navigation route. He stated he would fix the culverts. He stated there were 52 along the C-43 all the way back to the Franklin locks.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if there was more than oxbow on the C-43.

Mr. Russ stated he believed there 2 or 3 oxbows at least. He stated he was not responsible for the oxbows.

Vice Chairman Stanley asked if the Lost Trail would be cut off on the north end.

Mr. Russ stated it would not be cut off. He stated the cut off would cross over from Lakeport all the way to Port Myakka.

Vice Chairman Stanley asked when the paving would be finished on the north end.

Mr. Russ stated he was not sure. He stated he did not have the funds to complete the paving. He stated the paving that had been done in the past had been done by FDOT. He stated it would only be done by the Corps if extra funds were found.

Vice Chairman Stanley stated the trail was a great draw for tourists to the communities around the Lake. He stated there was only about a mile in the Buckhead Ridge area that needed to be paved. He stated a lot of people in the Buckhead Ridge community would use the trail if it was paved.

Mr. Russ stated this was a good point for when he prioritized upcoming projects. He agreed that the focus should be on the heavier populated areas.

Vice Chairman Stanley stated he would work with FDOT also regarding this matter.

County Manager Carlisle stated that section of Buckhead Ridge had been programmed in but had not been funded. He stated he would be reapplying for the funds.

Chairman Ahern thanked Mr. Russ for his presentation.

2. Long Term Recovery Presentation

County Manager Carlisle stated the presenter regarding this item was not present. He asked that the Board move on to the next agenda item.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

3. Extension of Public Education Impact Fees

County Manager Carlisle stated the following impact fees had been placed in abeyance and asked that the abeyance be extended another year.

Chairman Ahern called for public input. There was none.

County Manager Carlisle read the title of the Ordinance into the record.

ON MOTION of Vice Chairman Stanley seconded by Commissioner Strenth the Board adopted Glades County Ordinance No. 2018- 2, extending the temporary suspension of the collection of Public Education Impact Fees in Glades County until February 14, 2019.

Chairman Ahern called a roll call vote:

Commissioner Strenth – Yes
Vice Chairman Stanley – Yes
Commissioner Pryor – Yes
Commissioner Storter Long – Yes
Chairman Ahern – Yes

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

4. Extension of Park Impact Fees

County Manager Carlisle stated this ordinance would extend the temporary extension of the Park Impact Fees.

Chairman Ahern called for public comment. There was none.

County Manager Carlisle read the title of the Ordinance into the record.

ON MOTION of Vice Chairman Stanley seconded by Commissioner Storter Long the Board adopted Glades County Ordinance No. 2018- 3, extending the temporary suspension of the collection of Park Impact Fees in Glades County until February 14, 2019.

Chairman Ahern called a roll call vote:

Commissioner Storter Long - Yes
Commissioner Pryor – Yes
Vice Chairman Stanley – Yes
Commissioner Strenth – Yes
Chairman Ahern – Yes

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

5. Extension of Emergency Medical Services Impact Fees

County Manager Carlisle read the title of the Ordinance into the record.

Chairman Ahern called for public comment. There was none.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Pryor seconded by Commissioner Storter Long the Board adopted Glades County Ordinance No. 2018- 4, extending the temporary suspension of the collection of Emergency Medical Services Impact Fees in Glades County until February 14, 2019.

Chairman Ahern called a roll call vote:

Commissioner Pryor - Yes
Commissioner Storter Long – Yes
Vice Chairman Stanley - Yes
Commissioner Strenth – Yes
Chairman Ahern – Yes

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

6. Extension of Road Impact Fees

County Manager Carlisle read the title of the Ordinance into the record.

Chairman Ahern called for public comment. There was none.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Strenth seconded by Commissioner Pryor the Board adopted Glades County Ordinance No. 2018- 5, extending the temporary suspension of the collection of Road Impact Fees in Glades County until February 14, 2019.

Chairman Ahern called a roll call vote:

Commissioner Strenth – Yes
Vice Chairman Stanley – Yes
Commissioner Pryor – Yes
Commissioner Storter Long – Yes
Chairman Ahern - Yes

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

7. **Approved payment of County Warrants. (Exhibit A)**
General Fund: 82668 -82787
Intergovernmental Radio: 10346
SHIP: 1704
Buckhead Ridge Utility: 0233
8. **Approved Minutes of the January 22, 2018 Regular Meeting**

ON MOTION of Commissioner Pryor seconded Commissioner Storter Long 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.

BUSINESS AGENDA

9. **Medical Director Contract**

County Manager Carlisle asked that the Medical Director contract be extended for Dr. Lemmons until 2020.

County Manager Carlisle stated he had the chance to meet Dr. Lemmons at their Christmas Party and he had a lot of good things to say about Glades County's EMS Department.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Vice Chairman Stanley the Board approved the extension of Dr. Lemmons's current contract as Medical Director until September 30, 2020 and authorized the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Board. (See Exhibit B)

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

10. **CDBG Grant Application #18DB-OM-09-32-01-N19**

County Manager Carlisle stated this grant was previously applied for and not awarded to the County. He stated Glades County was awarded the grant this year. He stated these funds would provide for the start of the backbone for sanitary sewer service into Washington Park and for a lift station to tie it into the existing service in the City of Moore Haven. He stated this grant totaled \$700,000.00 and would also provide for the engineering and connection of several homes as well. He stated this grant required that the County put in a small park so that the number of residents affected would meet the total required. He stated the park would be a \$35,000.00 investment. He asked that the Chairman be authorized to sign if they chose to approve the grant application.

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ON MOTION of Commissioner Pryor seconded by Commissioner Starter Long the Board approved CDBG Grant Application #18DB-OM-09-32-01-N19 agreement and associated documents and authorized the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Board.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

County Manager Carlisle stated he would be attending a mandatory training session for the grant administrator on March 13 – 15, 2018 in Tallahassee.

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

Sheriff Hardin commented on attending the Florida Sheriff's Conference last week. He stated the Sheriff's signature bill (Texting While Driving) had made some forward progress. He stated the bill would make texting while driving a primary offense. He stated the inmate population as of this morning was 492. He stated 40 of which were County inmates, 18 US Marshalls, and the remainder ICE inmates.

Dr. Pepe, Director - Health Department, stated the department had soft launched their Public Health Preparedness app internally. He encouraged the Board to download the app and see if there were any missing items that they would like for him to add. He stated the app would be expanded to include shelter operations and some other things with Emergency Management. He stated the Emergency Management department had been great partners.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

Attorney Pringle clarified that the impact fee ordinances that were adopted today suspended the collection of fees only. He stated the Impact Fees were still in place; however, the Board was choosing to not collect them. He stated if the County decided to revoke the suspension of the collection a new study would be required.

There was a brief discussion regarding implementing impact fees on SFWMD.

Attorney Pringle stated most of the time one governmental agency did not have the authority to tax another governmental agency. He stated this could be accomplished through an Inter-local agreement or an act of the Legislature.

Commissioner Starter Long commented on the burn ban that would be coming to the Board for approval sometime in April, if not before. She stated when the Board wished to rescind the burn the ordinance had to be published. She stated the Board had previously discussed tying the rescission into some sort of drought index. She asked that this item be addressed.

Attorney Pringle stated there were 2 revisions that could be made to the general burn ban ordinance that would help in the timing of the rescinding of the ban. He stated one way would be to tie in the drought index and state that upon a certain index number the ban would be automatically rescinded. He stated another way would be to use a resolution

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to rescind the burn ban instead of an ordinance. He stated the resolution would not require advertising.

Commissioner Storter Long asked that Attorney Pringle draft some language that could be used to revise the existing ordinance so that a resolution could be adopted to rescind the burn ban.

Attorney Pringle stated the original ordinance could be revised so that imposition and recension of the burn ban could be done by resolution and tied into some type of safety standard.

Commissioner Storter Long asked that this issue be addressed at the next day meeting.

Attorney Pringle stated the ordinance amendment could be done at the March day meeting as a public hearing. He stated the resolution could then be implemented later on during the meeting or at the night meeting.

COUNTY MANAGER & DEPARTMENT HEADS

County Manager Carlisle introduced Cindy Ritchter, the newly hired SHIP Coordinator.

Chairman Ahern stated he was glad to have her here.

County Manager Carlisle stated Ms. Ritchter would be revising the LIHEAP program and getting it back on schedule. He stated they would also be working with Habitat for Humanity to use SHIP funding to build Habitat for Humanity homes. He stated Habitat for Humanity could build the homes for a lot cheaper with volunteer labor and the recipient would get a better home for a lot less dollars. He stated he believed this would be a great opportunity to provide housing in Glades County. He stated if the LIHEAP could be changed to 140% of the low to moderate income dollars could be provided to help the teachers and local workforce. He stated Charlotte County was doing this and it had been a great success for them. He stated Inga Williams, Community Development Director, was the person who had brought this idea to light. He stated the sewer study would be coming before the Board for consideration in the near future. He stated he had spent some time in Tallahassee last week but would let the Commissioners give a report. He stated the Board and staff had been opposing the home rule bill in the Constitutional Review Committee. He stated this bill had been defeated. He stated Representative Lee was still trying to bring the bill forward in the committee again. He stated the Florida Association of Counties was fighting this matter. He stated he appreciated all of the residents and parties that had written to the committee opposing this bill.

PUBLIC INPUT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There was none.

COMMISSIONERS ITEMS AND COMMENTS

Commissioner Storter Long stated the Ortona Community Association would be having a spaghetti dinner on February 17th. She invited everyone to attend.

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Commissioner Pryor welcomed Ms. Ritchter to the County's team. He stated the trip to Tallahassee had been good. He thanked each of the Commissioners and staff for hard work and efforts.

Commissioner Strenth also commented on the Tallahassee trip. He stated the Lakeport Sour Orange Festival had faired pretty well. He stated the turn out had not been as good as previous years. He stated the Lakeport Community Association would hold a meeting on March 13th at 7:00 p.m. He invited everyone to attend.

Vice Chairman Stanley stated the trip to Tallahassee had been pretty prosperous.

Chairman Ahern stated he believed the Commissioners and staff had done a good job in Tallahassee. He stated the ground work had been laid regarding the lands that were being taken from the County's tax rolls with no compensation. He stated Connie Vanaschee had done an excellent job of scheduling appointments for the Commissioners. He stated County staff was busy getting ready for the upcoming Chalo Nitka festival. He stated he and County Manager Carlisle had met with the Hotel and Lobby Association again regarding the hotel property. He stated the association had a convention coming up in March and County Manager Carlisle was going to attend. He stated the numbers had been analyzed for the gas tax money from Loves and the County would be getting an extra \$256,000.00 and the City would be getting \$52,000.00. He stated he was making progress on this matter.

Commissioner Storter Long asked how often these funds were remitted to the County.

Mrs. Patterson stated the funds were remitted monthly.

Chairman Ahern stated the new deal would go into effect in March.

ADJOURN

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

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Ahern adjourned the meeting at 10:08 a.m.

John Ahern, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Sandra H. Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court

Approved: March 13, 2018

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