

MINUTES OF THE GLADES COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2019 AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM, GLADES COUNTY COURTHOUSE,
MOORE HAVEN, FLORIDA

The Glades County Board of County Commissioners met on Monday, February 25, 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
Tiffany Patterson, Finance Director
Archie Branch, Public Works Director
Susan Whidden, Administrative Assistant – County Manager’s Office
Cindy Ricker, SHIP Coordinator
Bob Jones, Public Safety Director
Jeffrey Patterson, TDC Member
5 citizens

CALL TO ORDER

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

PRAYER

Commissioner Storter Long gave the invocation.

PLEDGE

Vice Chairman Pryor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS

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

County Manager Murphy requested that Item #2 – State Housing Assistance Plan Program Overview and Glades County LHAP FY 19/20, 20/21, 21/22 be pulled from the agenda. He stated staff had some technical difficulties with the power point presentation of this item and would bring it back to the Board at the next meeting.

Vice Chairman Pryor requested that removed Item #5 – Safety Patrol Washington DC Trip be removed from the agenda.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Ahern seconded by Commissioner Strenth the Board approved the amendments to the agenda.

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Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

PRESENTATIONS / AWARDS

There were none.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were none.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Approved payment of County Warrants (Exhibit A)**
General Fund: 85100 – 85184
ACH Payments: 109 - 110
Intergovernmental Radio: 10375
Buckhead Ridge Utility: 244
E911 Maintenance Grant: 127
EMS Award Grant: 1934
SHIP: 1789 - 1793

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

2. **Resolution 2019- State Housing Assistance Plan Program Overview and Glades County LHAP FY 19/20, 20/21, 21/22**

This item was removed from the agenda by amendment.

3. **Budget Transfer Request – GF Human Resources Professional Services**

County Manager Murphy requested a budget transfer in the amount of \$13,740.00 from Reserves for Special Projects to the Human Resources – Professional Services to cover costs associated with a revised Employee Manual. He stated quotes had been solicited and 3 proposals had been received. He stated these ranged in price from \$2,995.00 plus expenses to \$27,627.00. He stated the committee had reviewed the proposals, ranked them, and concurred that the firm MGT had provided the most complete proposal.

Commissioner Storter Long asked where copies of the proposals were.

County Manager Murphy stated copies had not been provided.

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Commissioner Storter Long questioned why the Commissioners had not received copies and expressed concern with the proposal being too high. She stated this was something that the County Manager could do with assistance from staff. She stated the manual would have to be reviewed by PRM and they would assist in the process.

Vice Chairman Pryor questioned the lower proposal.

County Manager Murphy stated the committee felt that the services that would be provided for \$3,000.00 were not sufficient. He stated they would only be receiving a list of suggested policy items. He stated the firm was going to provide 60 hours of effort and charge for travel, mileage, copying, telephone calls, etc. He stated the committee did not feel that this firm had the experience and qualifications needed for this project.

Commissioner Storter Long requested that copies of the proposals be provided in the future. She stated if the Commissioners were going to have to make a final decision on the proposals they needed to know what the selections were.

Chairman Stanley stated the County definitely needed to get a written policy in place that was legal and binding.

Commissioner Strenth agreed and felt that the County needed to hire someone with experience.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Strenth seconded by Commissioner Ahern the Board approved the transfer of \$13,740.00 from General Fund Reserve for Special Projects to General Fund Human Resources Professional Services for costs associated with a revised Employee Manual.

Vice Chairman Pryor asked if the County would receive a written policy for adoption with this price.

County Manager Murphy stated once the committee reviewed the document and it was in final draft form it would be brought to the Board for approval. He stated the manual could then be reviewed section by section.

Commissioner Storter Long asked why the Board would have to review the document if they were paying the firm \$13,740.00 to prepare the manual.

County Manager Murphy stated the document would still have to be reviewed and approved by the Board.

Commissioner Storter Long expressed concern with the committee having to review the document. She stated she felt this was a waste of money. She stated she was adamantly opposed to this.

Motion carried by 4 – 1 vote.

Commissioner Storter Long opposed the motion on the floor.

4. Award Bid for 2018-DPA/Rehab-Woodward-1

Cindy Ricker, SHIP Coordinator, stated this was the last of the rehab on Ms. Woodward's house. She explained that she had 2 different write ups for this bid proposal. She stated there were some windows that the previous owner had replaced but they were not impact windows. She stated one write up was for the replacement of the windows that had not been replaced and the other was for the replacement of all windows. She stated 3 contractors had responded. She stated this bid would complete all of the repairs on the home.

Commissioner Ahern asked if American Construction had been used in the past.

Ms. Ricker stated American Construction had done the Thatcher project. She stated they had gone above and beyond on that home and had not asked for any change orders.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Ahern seconded by Commissioner Strenth the Board awarded the bid for RFP 2018-DPA/Rehab-Woodward-1 to American Construction in the amount of \$16,700.00 and authorized the Chairman and SHIP Coordinator to sign the contract on behalf of the Board.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

5. Safety Patrol Washington DC Trip

This item was removed from the agenda by amendment.

6. Letter in Opposition of Kanter Real Estate's Proposal for Exploratory Oil Drilling in the Everglades Protection Area

County Manager Murphy stated Glades County had been asked to send a letter to the Honorable Ron DeSantis to express its fierce opposition to the Kanter Real Estate proposal for exploratory oil drilling the Everglades Protection Area.

Commissioner Storter Long asked who had requested this letter.

County Manager Murphy stated the request had come via email from someone in Broward County.

Vice Chairman Pryor stated he felt this was not Glades County's business and did not believe the Board should send a letter. He stated he did not know what group was pushing this issue.

ON MOTION of Vice Chairman Pryor seconded by Commissioner Storter Long the Board disapproved of sending a letter to the Honorable Ron DeSantis opposing Kanter Real Estate's proposal for exploratory oil drilling in the Everglades Protection Area.

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Chairman Stanley called for public input.

Connie Lyle, resident of Muse, who were you going to write the letter to.

Commissioner Ahern stated the letter would have been addressed to Governor DeSantis. Chairman Stanley stated he believed the email had come from Martin County's Commission. He stated the Mayor of Mirimar was also requesting the same letter.

Commissioner Storter Long asked who had received the email.

Chairman Stanley stated he had received the email and forwarded it to County Manager Murphy.

Commissioner Strenth suggested tabling the matter until more information could be gathered.

Chairman Stanley stated there was already a motion on the floor.

Commissioner Storter Long agreed that she did not feel that the Board should send this letter.

Chairman Stanley stated Broward County was against this action; however, a Judge had ruled that the exploratory oil drilling could be pursued. He expressed concern with the Board requesting help from Broward County with the lake levels at some point in the future.

Motion carried by 4 – 1 vote.

Commissioner Strenth opposed the motion on the floor.

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS / DEPARTMENT HEADS

Archie Branch, Public Works Department, stated he was almost done with the clean up along the River. He stated he was on the City side now and working at the end of Hickpochee. He stated his crew had been very busy keeping up with the festivals. He stated his crew had started removing the fence on Tobias from Hwy 78 to the railroad tracks in Moore Haven.

Commissioner Ahern thanked Mr. Branch for the work he and his department had been doing. He stated he had received a lot of good compliments on the cleanup along the River. He stated the Public Works Department had also done a lot to help the Glades Youth Livestock Association and the Chalo Nitka Committee in preparing for Chalo Nitka.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if Mr. Branch had been able to get some prices together for the removal of a derelict boat.

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Mr. Branch stated he was going to wait until he removed the one from Hickpochee to figure the cost for the removal of the one at Turkey Creek. He stated he would have a little bit better idea of the cost involved.

Chairman Ahern stated the FWC was also looking at the one at Turkey Creek. He stated there may be some State funding that could be used.

Commissioner Storter Long asked that Mr. Branch contact her after the festival weekend about the roads in Muse and Ortona.

Chairman Stanley asked if Mr. Branch had looked at the boat ramp at Harney Pond. He stated a citizen had asked about the boat ramp being expanded.

Mr. Branch stated all of the boat ramps around the County probably needed to be expanded. He stated with the low lake level this was an ongoing thing every year. He stated he would end up putting stone in them and make do until the water came back up. He stated the first ramp coming into Harney Pond needed be looked at closely. He stated some material had been added to the ramps at Buckhead Ridge, Indian Prairie, and Harney Pond. He stated all of the boat ramps had been full here lately. He stated the trash had doubled. He stated it was good to see them being used this much.

Vice Chairman Pryor commented on paying to launch boats at other boat ramps.

Mr. Branch stated this may be something to look into.

Vice Chairman Pryor suggested having a pass for Glades County residents.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

There was no discussion.

COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Murphy stated the Hendry County Manager was coordinating a meeting of the counties surrounding Lake Okeechobee to establish a unified voice for State and Federal Representatives to protect our interest concerning the adjustment of the lake levels. He stated as soon as he knew the date of the first meeting he would advise the Commissioners. He stated the Army Corps of Engineers was holding a public scoping meeting in Fort Lauderdale tomorrow from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on the 6th floor of the Exhibit Arena at the Broward County Main Library. He stated other meetings were scheduled in West Palm on February 27th and one in Miami Gardens on February 28th. He stated the public comment period would end on March 31st. He stated they were accepting comments by mail. He stated he had executed a supplemental agreement with Johnson Engineering in the amount of \$8,500.00 for the preparation of an acceptable Planting Plan for the 3 on-site conservation areas adjacent to the Business Park. He stated the scope of work included one site visit and to conduct and submit the 6th Annual Monitoring Report. He stated this also included up to 6 bi-monthly site visits to assess the status of the vegetation treatments. He stated FWC and the Water Management

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District were planning to conduct prescribed burns within multiple areas of Lake Okeechobee. He stated Area 1 consisted of 3,000 – 5,000 acres (possibly up to 11,000 acres). He stated Area 2 was within the Moonshine/Monkey Box area of the Lake and consisted of approximately 7,700 acres and Area 3 was approximately 5,500 acres. He stated the prescribed burns were scheduled for February or March if conditions allowed. He stated FWC had reserved the Alvin Ward Boat Ramp for trailer training with new employees on Wednesday, April 25th. He stated interviews for the Code Enforcement Officer and EMT positions had been conducted and recommendations would be coming forth before the end of the week. He stated he had included a letter of support from Congressman Steube regarding the Moore Haven Canal time extension permit.

Chairman Stanley asked if the permit process had been completed.

County Manager Murphy stated the permit had been submitted by the deadline and was still under review.

PUBLIC INPUT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There was none.

COMMISSIONERS ITEMS AND COMMENTS

Commissioner Storter Long expressed concern with only one employee being able to scan the Commission packets for internet viewing.

County Manager Murphy stated Mrs. Penno was the only employee with the software that allowed for the review of the attachments for ADA compliance.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if there was a license that needed to be purchased for someone else. She stated the agenda could have been scanned in and emailed. She stated she could have then contacted the County Manager's Office and requested copies of the things that were not included in tonight's packet. She stated she was very disappointed that this had not been done.

County Manager Murphy apologized for the inconvenience.

Commissioner Storter Long stated she liked to review the agenda and attachments prior to sitting down at the meeting. She stated the Ortona Community Association had hosted another very successful spaghetti dinner. She stated an engineer had offered advice on how to work the traffic flow and everything had gone smoothly. She stated 308 dinners had been served. She invited everyone to attend the next spaghetti dinner that would be held on March 16th.

Vice Chairman Pryor stated Chalo Nitka was in full swing. He stated he would not be present at the parade on Saturday morning due to other obligations.

Commissioner Strenth commended Mr. Branch and his crew for doing a great job throughout all of the festivals.

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Commissioner Ahern stated there were currently 527 inmates at the jail facility. He echoed Commissioner Pryor's comments about Chalo Nitka. He stated there would be shows every night and the sale would be held on Thursday night. He stated Friday would be the kid's day and the festival would be held on Saturday.

Chairman Stanley invited everyone to attend the Buckhead Ridge Homeowners' Association meeting on February 28th. He stated pot luck dinner would be served at 6:30 p.m. prior to the meeting.

ADJOURN

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

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Stanley adjourned the meeting at 6:34 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.