

MINUTES OF THE GLADES COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MEETING ON TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2017 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, March 14, 2017
at 9:00 a.m. with the following Commissioners present:

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

Others present:

Julie Mann Braddock, Administrative Secretary
Tiffany Patterson, Finance Director
Paul Carlisle, County Manager
Richard Pringle, Glades County Attorney
Avant Brown, County Road Superintendent
Lenice Taylor, Administrative Assistant - County Manager's Office
Bob Jones, Public Safety Director
Susan Whidden, SHIP Administrator
Libby Pigman, Representative - SWFMD
Robert DeMann, Chief Deputy - GCSO
Charlie Murphy, Okeechobee Radio
Jenny Allen, Community Development Department
3 citizens

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 HEARINGS

1. Ordinance No. 2017-6 Relating to the Imposition of Special Assessments

Attorney Pringle stated the ordinance before the Board today had been duly noticed. He stated this ordinance was the procedural or base ordinance for the County to use in the future to implement individual, non-ad valorem assessments on properties that receive certain benefits. He stated this ordinance could be used numerous times in the future if the County chose to implement such assessments. He stated adoption of this ordinance would not create any assessments or liens on properties today. He stated Nabors, Giblin & Nickerson had prepared the ordinance that was before the Board. He stated he had reviewed the contents and believed the ordinance was in proper form for adoption today if the Board so desired to adopt.

Vice Chairman Stanley asked if the ordinance had a termination date. Attorney Pringle stated the ordinance did not have a termination date. He stated a subsequent ordinance would have to be adopted if the Board chose to terminate the ordinance being adopted today.

Commissioner Storter Long clarified that adoption of this ordinance would give the Board the opportunity to implement assessments in the future. She stated a need would have to be determined and justified prior to implementation. She asked if a refund or credit would be given to the tax payer if an assessment was found to be less than what was originally estimated.

Attorney Pringle stated the repayment was not determined in this ordinance. He stated this would generally be a case by case determination. He stated in addition to retaining Nabors, Giblin & Nickerson to represent the Board as special counsel, the Board had also retained Government Services Group, which was a separate entity that prepared the fact studies that the Board would use to support specific assessments.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if the Board's cost for these services would be included in the final assessment.

Attorney Pringle stated the costs would be included in the total costs of the project which would be divided by the number of benefited parcels or whatever the determining factor may be.

County Manager Carlisle used the Crescent Acres project as an example. He stated the County would be getting a cost estimate from an engineering firm to present to the people of Crescent Acres regarding the assessment. He stated once the design and bid process was complete the County would know exactly what the fees were. He stated these fees would be included in the final assessment resolution. He stated if the fees changed the resolution would contain provisions to adjust them.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if the fee would be assessed annually.

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County Manager Carlisle stated this would be up to the Board. He stated the fee could be assessed as a one-time fee or annually over a number of years. He stated there would be a public hearing held and public input taken.

Attorney Pringle stated the public hearing would be held but individual notice would be mailed to those that would be affected. He stated the individuals would have multiple opportunities to appear and object. He stated the individuals could ultimately appeal the assessment in court. He explained that some of the projects would have up-front costs involved and that others would have maintenance costs.

Chairman Ahern stated he believed this would be a good tool that the Board could use in the future as needed. He called for public input. There was none.

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

Commissioner Storter Long questioned the provision which authorized exemptions and hardship assistance. She asked if the money would be spread over everyone else paying the assessment if there was someone who qualified for the exemption and not able to pay.

Attorney Pringle stated the County would have to be careful when granting exemptions. He stated when exemptions were granted, other revenue would have to be found to cover the costs. He stated the funds could not be reallocated to the other land owners.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if there were strict guidelines in place regarding the exemptions.

Attorney Pringle stated there were. He stated the standards that were used for exemptions on ad valorem taxes were looked at for defining exemptions.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Pryor seconded by Commissioner Storter Long the Board adopted Glades County Ordinance No. 2017-6 relating to the imposition of special assessments for the provision of services, facilities, programs, and local improvements within Glades County, Florida; authorizing the imposition and collection of assessments against property within the unincorporated area of Glades County; and authorizing the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Board.

Chairman Ahern called a roll call vote:

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

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

2. **Approved County Warrants. See Exhibit A.
General Fund: 80414 – 80498
Buckhead Ridge Utility: 0222
SHIP: 1674
EMS Award Grant: 1927**
3. **Approved the minutes of the February 14, 2017 Redistricting Workshop**
4. **Approved the minutes of the February 27, 2017 Regular Meeting**

Commissioner Storter Long stated she had several minor revisions to the minutes that she would provide to Ms. Braddock.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Vice Chairman Stanley the Board approved the Consent Agenda items.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT 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

5. **Resolution No. 2017-7 Supporting adequate funding of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program**

County Manager Carlisle stated federal collections allocated certain fees to each state based on income and population for the funding of assistance for energy, electrical, heating, and air conditioning. He stated Florida was not receiving their appropriated amount based on its population. He stated he was looking into the reasons behind Florida not getting its fair share. He stated he was looking at whether or not the applications were getting out to the public. He stated this resolution would support adequate funding for the residents of the state of Florida.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if multiple counties were also signing resolutions regarding adequate funding.

County Manager Carlisle stated Hendry County had signed a resolution and he had met with United Way and Florida Power & Light regarding some of the questions he had raised about getting the applications out to residents.

Chairman Ahern stated there were a lot of people that did need this type of assistance.

ON MOTION of Vice Chairman Stanley seconded by Commissioner Strenth the Board adopted Glades County Resolution No. 2017-7 supporting adequate funding of the Low

Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and authorized the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Board.

County Manager Carlisle read the title of the Resolution into the record.
Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

6. Resolution No. 2017-8 Urging members of the Florida Legislature to oppose HB 17 and SB 1158

County Manager Carlisle stated this was another issue that had come up in the legislature that would completely degrade the County's home rule ability to govern. He stated if this bill passed, ordinances such as the one just passed would have to go the state legislature for approval, and then the County would be granted permission to enact the ordinance. He stated this bill covered all counties and municipalities within the State of Florida. He explained that adoption of this bill would affect the County's ability to make changes to the COMP Plan, to provide development, to provide business opportunities, to provide jobs, the ability to tax, and the ability to correct issues within our ordinances, etc. He stated individuals in Tallahassee that had no idea of what the County's issues were, or circumstances, would be dictating whether the County's ordinances made sense or not. He stated these bills stemmed from ordinances that were adopted in Miami-Dade County and throughout the state that residents did not agree with. He stated he and Commissioner Pryor would be traveling to Tallahassee to meet with the County's legislative delegation and others regarding these bills. He stated he had meet with Representative Donalds and Senator Passidomo last week on these issues. He stated it was very important that the Board oppose these bills.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Starter Long seconded by Commissioner Pryor the Board adopted Glades County Resolution No. 2017-8 a resolution of the Glades County Board of County Commissioners urging members of the Florida Legislature to oppose HB 17 and SB 1158 which preempt home rule power to take certain actions in the best interest of the residents of the County unless expressly authorized by the Legislature; authorizes transmission of the resolution to the Glades County Legislative Delegation, the Florida Association of Counties, and other interested parties; providing for conflicts; providing for liberal construction; providing for severability; providing an effective date; and authorized the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Board.

Commissioner Starter Long stated these bills infuriated her. She stated these bills could change how the County did business.

Commissioner Pryor stated the Florida Association of Counties was really working against the passage of these 2 bills.

County Manager Carlisle stated Senator Passidomo had indicated that one of the driving factors was some of the ordinances that Miami-Dade County had passed. He stated his comment had been that the State should not punish everyone for the actions of a few and if the residents of Miami-Dade County were not happy with the ordinances

that their local legislative body was passing then they should go to the polls and change those legislative bodies.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

7. Small County Consolidated Solid Waste Grant Agreement – DEP Agreement No. SC 711

County Manager Carlisle stated this grant funded the County's recycling program. He stated Mrs. Hubbard had done a great job putting this grant together. He stated this grant would also provide a new bailer. He stated the one they had now was old and needed to be replaced. He stated this grant would help fund the employee's salary, fuel, and all of the costs associated with running the program.

Commissioner Storter Long stated this was desperately needed. She commented on getting inmates from the GEO facility to assist with this program. She thanked Mrs. Hubbard for her hard work on preparing this grant.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Pryor seconded by Commissioner Storter Long the Board approved DEP Agreement No. SC 711 – grant application for the Small County Consolidated Solid Waste Grant in the amount of \$95,518.76 and authorized the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Board.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

8. Budget Transfer for EMS

County Manager Carlisle stated this was a line item transfer and not a change in this budget. He stated this transfer would move funds from the Medical Supplies line that were not being used to the Equipment line for the purchase of 2 Defibtec Automatic Chest Compressors to assist with administering CPR.

Vice Chairman Stanley stated he was present when the representative was demonstrating these compressors and believed they would be a good purchase.

Commissioner Strenth stated the compressors were pretty fascinating.

ON MOTION of Vice Chairman Stanley seconded by Commissioner Strenth the Board authorized the transfer of \$13,738.00 from General Fund EMS Medical Supplies to General Fund EMS Equipment for the purchase of two (2) Defibtech Automatic Chest Compressor Life Line Arms.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

9. Budget Transfer for Community Services

County Manager Carlisle stated the use of funds for indigent burial services had been depleted. He stated funds would need to be transferred from contingency to cover any future indigent cremations.

Commissioner Storter Long suggested striking the word “burial” in the title of the line item. She stated the Board had authorized cremation services for individuals who were declared indigent.

County Manager Carlisle agreed. He stated the line item description could be changed during budget hearings.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Vice Chairman Stanley the Board authorized the transfer of \$3,330.00 from General Fund Contingencies to General Fund Community Services Burial in the event of future burials during the 16/17 Fiscal Year.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

10. Planning Commissioners’ Term Expiration

County Manager Carlisle stated there were 4 individuals on the Planning Commission whose terms would expire at the end of the month. He stated these individuals had all shown an interest in serving another term and asked that they be reappointed.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Pryor seconded by Vice Chairman Stanley the Board reappointed Carl Perry, Steven Dobbs, Jack Wilson, and Ellen Beers to the Planning Commission.

Chairman Ahern stated these individuals did a great job. He stated the Board appreciated everything they did.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

Attorney Pringle stated the Board had held a workshop last month to discuss redistricting and he had indicated that he would do some research and bring the item back to the Board. He stated he had done some research and had some thoughts about the item. He stated there was a decision rendered in 2016 by the Federal Court in the Northern District of Florida related to Jefferson County that finally clarified the question of whether the inmates housed in the jail facilities needed to be included in the population when redistricting. He stated that question had a significant impact on the outcome of the boundary line changes if they were included compared to not including them. He stated the Northern District Court had said that the inmates did not have to be included. He stated the next census would come out in 2020. He stated he believed if the Board wanted to take action at this time to say that they were not going to redistrict that they would be justified in doing so. He stated the following reasons for justification: the Board had considered the population changes in the County without the jail populations; no one would be adversely affected by leaving the district boundaries as they were for now; and consideration had been given to some significant near term developments that could further change the populations in different districts in the near

future and by the census. He stated the Board of County Commissioners were elected on a county-wide basis. He stated the impact of redistricting would be of a much smaller consideration when county-wide elections were used. He stated the need to redistrict was significantly less. He stated there were some criteria that the Board could consider in addition to just the census numbers, such as the costs of changing the boundaries, the costs of new polling places, and the costs of changing everyone's district in terms of voting. He stated there were 2 incumbents on the Board that would have to run against each other if the redistricting was done. He stated the Board was justified in leaving the district boundaries as they were at this time. He asked if the Board wished to have him draft a document reflecting these reasons.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if having these reasons stated on public record would suffice or if a resolution had to be adopted.

Attorney Pringle stated if the boundaries were changed a formal document would be needed; however, if the boundaries were not changed he believed it would be good to have a document that had the justifications listed.

Commissioner Pryor asked if the document should be sent to the School Board.

It was the consensus of the Board to have Attorney Pringle draft a document listing the reasons (justifications) for leaving the district boundaries as they were now.

COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Carlisle stated the Moore Haven Canal project was near completion. He stated the project should be done by the end of March. He stated the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation held a pre-bid meeting on March 7th for the landscaping on top of and along the side of the berm. He stated FWC would be paying for the landscaping. He stated this would be an added benefit. He stated the County would be able to show people the one section of the project that was complete when seeking additional funding opportunities. He stated the Glades Inn had been completely demolished and the property was now vacant. He stated the RFP had been sent to several individuals and published in the local newspaper. He stated the bids were due back April 23rd. He stated the Loves Travel Stop Grand Opening was scheduled for March 30th. He stated they were not sure if they would be ready for the soft opening on March 23rd. He stated Loves staff would be using the Training Center on Sunday for employee orientation. He stated there were approximately 60 employees who would be attending the orientation. He stated he and Commissioner Pryor would be traveling to Tallahassee to address concerns with certain proposed bills. He stated there was a bill that was being proposed that would add an additional \$25,000.00 homestead exemption. He stated this would have a tremendous effect on the County's funding ability. He stated they would be talking about some of the District's current water projects and some alternatives to them. He stated another bill was proposing to sweep all of the County's funds to offset the budget. He stated a lot of the funds were designated for specific items and could not be spent on other items.

Chairman Ahern stated he appreciated them going to Tallahassee.

There was a brief discussion regarding the bill that proposed an additional \$25,000.00 homestead exemption.

Vice Chairman Stanley asked how the improvements and landscaping at the Moore Haven Canal would be maintained.

County Manager Carlisle stated this was going to be a challenge. He stated a barge would have to be purchased to carry the mowers across.

Commissioner Storter Long asked for an update on the park that Hugo Geistman used to own.

County Manager Carlisle stated he was working with the Corps of Engineers on extending the lease agreement. He stated he would bring the item to the Board for direction in the near future. He stated it had been suggested that the park be added to the Alvin Ward Park lease and then sub-leased to someone.

Chairman Ahern stated everyone needed to be involved. He commented on the numerous set backs in trying to get the lease agreement finalized.

Avant Brown, County Road Superintendent, stated the maintenance of the Alvin Ward Park was costly and time consuming and cautioned the Board against adding more property to the lease.

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

Robert DeMann, Chief Deputy – GCSO, gave an update on the jail and ICE Facility. He stated that as of Monday the numbers were up to 457 inmates. He stated the facility was running at approximately 84% of its capacity in the main unit. He stated he had been working along with ICE to ensure that the beds were filled and the numbers kept up for each classification of inmates. He stated it was somewhat challenging. He stated with the large increase in population, more quality corrections officers and staff were needed. He stated it had been very time consuming trying to fill these needs. He stated the State of Florida and the Florida Criminal Justice Standards in Training Commission had a lot of requirements for back ground checks. He stated over time numbers were up but everyone was safe and secure at the facility. He stated the facility had billed out just short of \$1 million. He stated this put them back on track to what they were doing in the past (\$12 - \$13 million per year). He stated the bond restructure was coming along. He stated there were a couple of procedural hurdles and federal court reviews needed to do the reissue. He stated he believed the target date for the restructure of the bonds was set for some time in May.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if there was a possibility that the old jail facility would be used again.

Chief DeMann stated they had been talking about the idea. He stated he would not recommend leasing the old jail facility again without some certain guarantees. He stated the old jail facility was a small unit and it would cost the same amount to run that unit for 88 people as it did to run 400 inmates at the other facility. He stated the staff had to be specialized for females and extra medical requirements were needed. He stated there were some hurdles to get through. He stated he had offered them a proposal of \$95.00/day to use the facility. He stated the margin was very tight even at this amount. He stated he did not want to depend on the main unit to subsidize the old jail facility. He stated he would like to put the \$500,000.00 back into the County's General Fund. He stated this time they really needed to make sure they had certain guarantees. He explained what happened the last time the old facility was leased out and why it had not worked.

Chairman Ahern stated it needed to be a stand-alone operation.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if juveniles would present the same hurdles and cost as much as women.

Chief DeMann stated the space could be used for juveniles.

County Manager Carlisle explained that the Board had authorized the expenditure of approximately \$7,500.00 to replace some windows at the old jail facility and that there was still approximately \$43,000.00 left for any remodeling that may need to be done.

Chief DeMann stated he did not foresee coming to the Board to ask for any renovations until he had something in writing. He stated the new PRIA standards were crippling for an old small county jail but would need to be done prior to use.

Commissioner Storter Long stated she had heard that there was possible legislation that would require dash cameras in every patrol unit. She asked how this would be funded.

Chief Demann stated this would be another unfunded mandate. He stated the bill would require both body cameras and cameras in each patrol unit.

Vice Chairman Stanley asked how many inmates could be housed at the old jail.

Chief Demann stated the capacity was 88 inmates.

Vice Chairman Stanley stated the facility would have to be full to make any kind of profit.

Chief DeMann stated this was correct. He stated he would need at least 66 beds full every day or have the cash equivalent coming in just to make the major payments such as rent, utilities, and insurance. He stated the food services and support services would be provided from the main unit. He stated this would cost approximately \$1.35/meal.

Vice Chairman Stanley asked if men could be housed at the old jail facility along with the women.

Chief DeMann stated they could not. He stated the old facility did not provide the needed separation. He stated the facility could hold men only. He stated ICE had suggested using the facility for certain classifications of men inmates but thought that women only would be the best way to go.

There was a brief discussion about where the inmates (male and female) were housed at the new facility.

PUBLIC INPUT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There was none.

COMMISSIONERS ITEMS AND COMMENTS

Commissioner Strenth commented on the Chalo Nitka festival. He stated it had been very successful again this year. He stated he had met with Mrs. Pigman and toured the Water Management District's pump station in Buckhead Ridge and the levies. He thanked her for the tour and stated he had enjoyed it.

Vice Chairman Stanley stated the Muse Honey Festival would be held on March 25th and invited everyone to attend. He commented on a conflict he had with some of the meetings for several of the boards he sat on. He stated he had written a letter to one of the agencies and informed them that he would not be able to attend if the meetings were on the third Wednesday of every other month. He stated he would bring the matter to the Board again April if the conflict was still present. He stated he had gone with United Way representatives to Glades Electric regarding several grants. He stated Glades Electric had granted \$5,000.00 to United Way for their new office space that they would be putting in one of the County's storage facilities. Chairman Ahern stated the Glades Electric Charitable Trust helped a lot of people.

Commissioner Storter Long apologized for not participating in a conference call with FHERO yesterday. She thanked the local Planning Agency and Zoning Board for their hard work. She stated she was glad to see the 4 members be reinstated for another term. She invited everyone to attend the Muse Honey Festival. She stated the Sierra Club would host a meeting concerning burning and smoke from agriculture. She stated the meeting would be held at the Ortona Community Center on March 28th at 6 p.m. She stated Danny Calahan, Senior Forestry Manager – Palmdale, stated they had received so many calls that they were not able to discuss the issues with anyone. She stated Mr. Callahan stated he was well aware of the complaints and did not want the local people getting caught in the battle. She stated the Ortona Community Association would hold a special meeting on March 30th. She stated a brief business meeting would be followed by an Ice Cream Social and a presentation by guest speaker Sheriff Hardin.

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Commissioner Pryor commented on a conversation he had regarding clean air. He stated Glades County was ranked number 3 for clean air in the State.

Chairman Ahern stated Chalo Nitka had been a huge success. He stated the Glades Youth Livestock sale had grossed \$248,000.00 without add-ons. He stated the attendance at both the rodeos and dances were up this year. He stated the concession stand was extremely busy on both nights and had sold out on Saturday night. Commissioner Pryor stated the figures showed that each child had made approximately \$3,000.00 at the sale.

ADJOURN

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

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Ahern adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

John Ahern, Chairman

ATTEST:

Sandra H. Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court

Approved: March 27, 2017

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