

MINUTES OF THE GLADES COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING ON MONDAY, MARCH 26, 2018 AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM, GLADES COUNTY COURTHOUSE, MOORE  
HAVEN, FLORIDA

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The Glades County Board of County Commissioners met on Monday, March 26, 2018 at 6:00 p.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  
Tiffany Patterson, Finance Director  
Susan Whidden, BOCC Administrative Assistant  
Jerry Randolph, Public Works Director  
Bob Jones, Public Safety Director  
David Hardin, Glades County Sheriff  
Chris Felker, Okeechobee News  
3 citizens

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Ahern called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.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 no amendments.

**PRESENTATIONS / AWARDS**

There were none.

**PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

There was none.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

There were none.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. **Approved payment of County Warrants (Exhibit A)**  
**General Fund: 82971 – 83045**  
**Direct Pay: 002 – 005**  
**SHIP: 1710**  
**Buckhead Ridge Utility: 0234**
2. **Approved Minutes of the January 9, 2018 Workshop**
3. **Approved Minutes of the February 26, 2018 Regular Meeting**
4. **Approved Minutes of the March 13, 2018 Regular Meeting**

ON MOTION of Commissioner Pryor seconded by Vice Chairman Stanley 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**

**5. Community Development Block Grant**

County Manager Carlisle stated the County had elected to have direct payment. He stated these payments would be wire transferred to the County's account versus the County paying the contractor and waiting for reimbursement. He stated the County would submit all of the documentation to the Department of Economic Opportunity and they would then wire the funds. He stated the funds would have to be released within 3 days of receipt. He requested that the Board authorize staff to make the payments and then bring all of the documents to the Board at the next scheduled meeting.

Commissioner Storter Long stated she had seen an ad for a Grant Administrator. She questioned if this ad was for this particular grant.

County Manager Carlisle stated the Administrator position had been advertised, bids had been received and were being evaluated now. He stated that item would be brought before the Board for award at the next meeting.

ON MOTION of Vice Chairman Stanley seconded by Commissioner Storter Long the Board authorized direct deposit payments for the CDBG Small Cities Grant and that documentation be provided to the Board at the next scheduled meeting.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

**6. Restriping of CR 721 (Reservation Road)**

County Manager Carlisle stated this project had been in the works for some time. He stated Mr. Randolph had been working hard to get pricing. He stated 2 quotes had been received. He stated Steffen & Sons Striping, LLC had provided a piggy-back quote and

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the lowest bid in the amount of \$48,343.96. He stated he had worked with this contractor in the past and asked that the Board award the bid to them.

Commissioner Storter Long asked how many miles of road would be striped.

Mr. Randolph stated it was almost 15 miles of road.

Chairman Ahern stated he had driven down the road Friday night and the road was a safety hazard.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Commissioner Pryor the Board awarded the bid for the striping on CR 721 (Reservation Road) to Steffen & Sons Striping, LLC in the amount of \$48,343.96 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 being housed at the jail facility. He stated the facility was functioning well. He stated the Somalia situation had calmed down, however, the law suits were still active.

### **COUNTY MANAGER & DEPARTMENT HEADS**

County Manager Carlisle stated the CDBG training in Tallahassee had gone surprisingly well. He stated he had learned of some requirements that the County would need to comply with and some forms that would be needed. He stated he had been working with Commissioner Strenth regarding the compost plant at the reservation. He stated the plant had been damaged during the storm and was emitting even more of an odor. He stated Mr. Randolph was working on the SCOP & SCRAP programs to bring before the Board. He stated Mrs. Williams was no longer with the County and he had been filling in as the Planning & Zoning Director. He stated there were several projects going before the Planning & Zoning Board. He stated there were some special exceptions and land use changes also pending. He stated he was working to move these projects forward so that these developments did not get delayed. He stated code compliance issues would be a challenge. He stated he was able to send letters of violation, but could not issue citations. He stated if the Commissioners received complaints to please share with the residents that the County was doing everything it could do at this time. He stated the position had been advertised and he hoped to get some qualified applicants soon.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if David Mercer could do any of the inspections.

County Manager Carlisle stated he was doing some of the preliminary work such as taking photos.

Commissioner Storter Long stated she had received numerous calls regarding someone having chickens in the Turkey Creek Subdivision. She stated chickens were not allowed.

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She stated Mr. Mercer had gone out but was not able to find any chickens; however, the complainant had sent her pictures. She asked if these pictures should be forwarded to Mr. Mercer.

County Manager Carlisle stated the standard for code violations was what the average person could see from a place where the average person had a right to be. He stated Mr. Mercer could not go into a neighbor's yard and look over a fence. He stated photos taken from a second story window would not be from a place that the average person would have permission to be. He stated he had been out to the location several times and had not seen any chickens. He stated he would have to ask Attorney Pringle about the use of the photos.

Commissioner Storter Long stated she would ask the person to see if they could get photos from the yard instead.

Sheriff Hardin stated if the person was invited into a person's home and from that point of vantage the chickens could be seen, the person would be in a place where they had a legal right to be.

Vice Chairman Stanley questioned when or if the road near the fire tower in Muse would be repaired.

County Manager Carlisle stated the asphalt mixture designs had been changed some years ago. He stated this created shoving and slipping issues. He stated this was a shoving and load issue. He stated he would look into the matter. He stated the challenge would be getting a milling machine in there. He stated the job would have to be done when the County was doing another project in the vicinity.

Commissioner Storter Long stated she had received some complaints regarding Jack's Branch Road.

County Manager Carlisle stated he was aware of the issues. He stated there were some failures, however the contractor that had done the work had been contacted to see if he could do the repairs.

### **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

There was no discussion.

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

Bonny Shop, resident of Buckhead Ridge, thanked the Commission for the help that it had provided for the past 15 years. She stated that during that time she had gratefully served the people of Buckhead Ridge as a Hope Connections employee. She provided a petition containing approximately 200 signatures of people asking the Board to maintain the level of service that Buckhead Ridge had previously had. She stated she had talked with many people and realized there were many things that would need to be implemented. She stated she had come to realize that this was not a realistic request.

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She stated as an older community, Buckhead Ridge did not have many that would be able to help maintain such a service. She stated she hoped the Board would try to provide a way for other services so that the elderly and others in Buckhead Ridge could still have the services that they had come to depend upon. She stated the building that Hope Connections had used in the past already housed County services. She stated she hoped that someday the building could be used again to provide a place for information and aid to the community as it continued to grow. She thanked the Board for taking the time to hear her concerns.

Chairman Ahern asked Mrs. Shop to give the petition to County Manager Carlisle. He stated County Manager Carlisle would be exploring the options for continued services in the Buckhead Ridge area.

County Manager Carlisle stated he had opened the door for discussions with the United Way. He stated he had asked them to consider putting a second United Way home in Buckhead Ridge and asked them to provide some of the similar services that were provided in Moore Haven. He stated there was no guarantee, but he believed something could be done. He stated the County was looking for other ways to help.

Commissioner Storter Long asked that Mrs. Shop read the title of the petition into the record.

Mrs. Shop read the following into the record: "We, the undersigned, would like to save our community center and maintain it as a community center. It is an essential place for the seniors and community residents to go for informational and directional help being provided to them, as it has been for many years now. With the growth happening around and in our community, our center will become a vital addition to the Buckhead Ridge complex. It will continue to reach out a welcome hand to all who enter."

Commissioner Pryor asked if the residents thought the County was taking the community center away from them.

Mrs. Shop stated the people did not. She stated the residents just knew it was being closed because of the fact that she, as the Hope Connections Coordinator, had not been able to increase the number of people receiving services. She stated she had tried everything.

Commissioner Pryor asked if the community center would continue to host meetings once a month. He stated the way the petition read, it sounded as though the community center was being taken away.

Chairman Ahern stated the meetings could still be held at the building. He stated the front part of the community center had housed the Hope Connections office.

Mrs. Shop stated she would like to see the center be opened up as an informational and directional center. She stated she had been there for 15 years and had answered

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questions for people regarding the Tax Collector's Office, the Building Department, the Mosquito Control District, the Homeowners' Association Building, the Fire Department, etc. She stated there was a need for someone to be available to answer these questions.

Commissioner Storter Long questioned the number of people using the services. She asked how many people came in for other services.

Mrs. Shop stated she used to have many that came in for other services. She stated she was not allowed to disclose the names of the people that were receiving the meals. She stated the number of people that came in for services fluctuated with the seasons. She stated she currently had no one coming in.

Commissioner Pryor recalled the first time he met Mrs. Shop. He stated he admired her passion for what she believed in. He stated he greatly appreciated the work she had done over the years for the Buckhead Ridge community.

Mrs. Shop stated this was her home and those people were her family.

Chairman Ahern stated he appreciated everything Mrs. Shop had done for the community. He stated the Board and staff would continue to look for other options.

Vice Chairman Stanley commented on the great service Mrs. Shop had provided to the community over the years. He stated he hoped that the United Way would come in to help continue offering services in the area. He volunteered to hand out the meal bags until something else could be done.

Mrs. Shop stated the delivery of the meal bags had been moved to Lakeport. She stated she had the call out list and had made the phone calls to let people know that the bags were being sent to Lakeport. She stated of the 28 people called she stated approximately 20 had indicated that they would not travel to Lakeport to pick up the bags.

Vice Chairman Stanley stated he understood why these people would not travel to Lakeport. He asked who Mrs. Shop had as a contact at the Harry Chapin Food Bank.

Mrs. Shop stated her contact was Annie Nowell and she could provide a number for Vice Chairman Stanley if he would stop by.

Vice Chairman Stanley stated he would see what he could do to get the bags delivered to Buckhead Ridge instead of Lakeport.

Commissioner Storter Long stated she had asked Mrs. Patterson how much the County provided in funding to Hope Connections. She stated the figure was \$22,080.00 per year. She stated Hope Connections could not tell the County how many people they were serving and what portion of the funds provided services to the Buckhead Ridge community. She stated Moore Haven's office seemed to stay busy.

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Vice Chairman Stanley clarified that Hope Connections was still feeding people and would still deliver the meals. He stated they would also provide microwave ovens if the people needed one. He explained that although the funding had been taken away from the Buckhead Ridge community; 8 people had been taken off of a waiting list for home bound services so the funds were still being used in Glades County.

### **COMMISSIONERS ITEMS AND COMMENTS**

Commissioner Storter Long stated she had not been able to attend the Honey Festival but she had contributed.

Commissioner Pryor stated he had visited the Tax Collector's Office this morning to take care of some personal business. He stated an older gentleman had come in to do some title work. He stated one of the clerks had asked the gentleman for proof of insurance; the gentleman did not have any proof with him. He stated the clerk made the phone call to the insurance company and worked with the gentleman to obtain his title. He stated this made him feel good to know that people will go above and beyond their job duties to help others. He stated he felt these employees needed to be recognized.

Chairman Ahern stated all of the elected officials and staff went beyond their call of duty. He stated it did make you feel good to see this.

Commissioner Pryor stated it made him feel proud.

Commissioner Storter Long agreed.

Chairman Ahern stated Gail Jones created an atmosphere of helping others.

Vice Chairman Stanley commented on attending the Muse Honey Festival. He stated the festival was very nice and they had a good turn-out. He invited everyone to attend the Buckhead Ridge Community Association's monthly meeting on Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

Commissioner Strenth agreed with Commissioner Pryor's comments about the employees. He commented on the Tax Collector's staff working until 5:30 p.m. one afternoon to assist him with an issue. He stated he continued to work with County Manager Carlisle on the smell coming from the compost plant on the Reservation.

Chairman Ahern stated the smell had reached Moore Haven on Saturday morning.

Commissioner Strenth invited everyone to attend a community meeting regarding the issues with the compost plant on April 3<sup>rd</sup> in Lakeport.

Chairman Ahern stated he appreciated all of the work Mr. Randolph was doing at the cemetery. He commented on the roads being repaved in Port LaBelle. He stated the contractor was doing a great job and the residents were very happy.

### **ADJOURN**

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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 6:37 p.m.

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John Ahern, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Sandra H. Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court

Approved: April 10, 2018

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