

MINUTES OF THE GLADES COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MEETING ON MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2017 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, March 27, 2017 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
Sandra H. Brown, Clerk of Court
Tiffany Patterson, Finance Director
Paul Carlisle, County Manager
Lenice Hubbard, Administrative Assistant - County Manager's Office
Susan Whidden, SHIP Administrator
Charlie Murphy, Okeechobee Radio
Libby Pigman, Representative – SFWMD
3 citizens

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

PRAYER

Commissioner Storter Long gave the invocation.

PLEDGE

Commissioner Pryor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS

There were none.

PRESENTATIONS / AWARDS

1. Presentation by SWFRPC

Margaret Wuerstle, Executive Director - SWFRPC, presented a short video on the SWFRPC's Annual Report showing what the County's assessment dollars were paying for. She stated the RPC was the only forum in the area made up of elected officials from 6 counties and 17 municipalities that met monthly to discuss issues that impact the entire region. She stated the RPC was, at this time, only required by statute to do Comprehensive Plan reviews, reviews of the existing DRI's, to act as the Local Emergency Planning Committee, the Interlocal Coordination reviews, and the

Transportation Disadvantaged. She stated the RPC was doing a lot more than they were required to do. She stated the RPC was researching writing grants for the communities. She stated the information gathered by the RPC was passed along to the communities and if they were interested they could either write the grants themselves or get assistance from the RPC. She stated the RPC could help in reporting and administering the grants as well. She stated the RPC had done the Hurricane Surge and Directional Mapping, research on the value of the eco-system (i.e. mangroves, wetlands, etc.), had written a strategy for investing in manufacturing, and also monitored legislative priorities moving forward in the legislature. She stated many people did not realize that the RPC was a Federal Economic Development District and was required to put together a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). She stated this strategy was updated yearly and a major overhaul was done on the document every 5 years, which happened to be this year. She stated it was very important that the RPC hear from the Board and the Glades County Economic Development Council on the projects that needed to be included in this document. She explained that when the County applied for Federal funding the Federal Government would go to the RPC first to ensure that the project was consistent with the plan. She stated the Florida Chamber Foundation was writing their 2030 Plan. She stated they had held a town hall meeting in January for the 6 County region. She stated the State Department of Economic Opportunity was writing their Economic Development Strategy this year as well. She stated all 3 of these documents needed to come together so that everyone was going in the same direction. She stated that in the year 2030 (17 years from now) this region would need over 188,000 jobs. She stated this equated to 1,121 net new jobs each every month from now until then. She stated when asked of the people in attendance at the meeting if they felt that their communities were positioned for this, 59% said no. She stated 46% of Americans could not meet a \$400.00 emergency expense. She stated the RPC had been working on arts and culture in the region. She stated individuals in the area saw the arts & culture and heritage - sense of place as weak, but improving. She stated the RPC's focus for this year would be to work on a Regional Transportation Plan. She stated the RPC realized that everyone had their own MPO but there was not one big map that could be looked at and kept updated on issues such as freight, rail, and improvements to the roads. She stated the RPC had met with the District Secretary on Friday and he had indicated that he had all of the information needed to make this happen. She stated this would be the first step in developing a Regional Economic Development overlay map that would identify the sites that were shovel ready and all of the assets associated with those sites. She stated the map would also include sites that may not be ready at this time but that could be ready in the near future. She stated the RPC was also focusing on water quality and resources; quality of life; the arts & culture; and crime and safety issues. She stated the region was awarded the Promise Zone which was a 10 year designation. She stated it had been in existence for 8 months now and had brought in \$2 million dollars with another \$3 million pending for projects in the Promise Zone. She stated they were submitting new grants every day to keep this growing. She stated that although it was a 10 year designation the communities did not need to wait until year 3 or 5 to get started, they needed to act now. She stated the RPC was working on 5 goal areas – create jobs,

enhance economic activity, improve educational opportunities, reduce crime, and increase community infrastructure. She stated a sixth goal had been added, which was agriculture. She stated there were over 80 people sitting on these task forces who were helping implement the plan.

Chairman Ahern thanked Mrs. Wuerstle for her presentation.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were none.

CONSENT AGENDA

2. **Approved payment of County Warrants (Exhibit A)**
General Fund: 80499 – 80630
SHIP: 1675
Courthouse Facilities Grant: 1464
3. **Approved the minutes of the March 14, 2017 Regular meeting**

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Commissioner Pryor the Board approved the Consent Agenda items.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS

There was none.

BUSINESS AGENDA

4. **Conservation Management Plan for Harney Pond Canal**

County Manager Carlisle stated this was the last of the 4 plans that needed to be submitted to the Department of Environmental Protection for the Harney Pond Canal.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Vice Chairman Stanley the Board approved the Conservation Management Plan for Harney Pond Canal. (See Exhibit B)

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

5. **Agreement with Contractor for the mobile home located at the Glades County Road Department**

County Manager Carlisle stated this mobile home had been leased out previously to a Deputy who had unfortunately, passed away. He stated there was another Deputy who wished to take over the lease. He stated having a Deputy live in the mobile home relieved the over-time for the Animal Control Officer and also provided security for the Road Department. He stated several revisions had been made to the lease agreement, one of which was the payment of a security deposit.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if an inspection would be done prior to the Deputy moving in.

County Manager Carlisle stated an inspection had been done and pictures had been taken. He stated the Maintenance Department was doing some repairs to the mobile home now. He stated there were some leaks behind the bathroom wall and some porch boards, skirting, and screen had been replaced. He stated the home would be ready by April 1st.

ON MOTION of Vice Chairman Stanley seconded by Commissioner Storter Long the Board approved the Agreement with Contractor (Deputy James Clendening) for the mobile home located at the Glades County Road Department and authorized the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Board. (See Exhibit C)

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

6. Agreement with Contractor for General Cleaning and Maintenance Duties of County Facilities

County Manager Carlisle stated he had tried to hire a part-time person for this job; however, no one had applied. He stated the Board had authorized him to advertise the position as a contracted service. He stated he and Mrs. Hubbard had reached an agreement based on the funding to provide services up to 24 hours per week. He stated most of the services would be performed on the weekends. He stated the agreement covered general cleaning and maintenance duties of the County parks and boat ramps, cleaning of the Regional Training Center, and inspections of the Alvin Ward Boat Ramp restrooms and the Ortona Cemetery restrooms.

Vice Chairman Stanley stated the cover page also showed the Muse Fire Station; however, the contract had the facility marked out.

County Manager Carlisle stated that once the room was built it would be covered under the contract.

Commissioner Storter Long stated the word fire station needed to be restrooms instead and stated the last 2 items needed to be made totally separate because they were only inspections.

County Manager Carlisle stated he would make these revisions to the contract.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Pryor seconded by Commissioner Strenth the Board approved the Agreement with Contractor (Lenice Hubbard) for general cleaning and maintenance duties of County facilities and authorized the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Board. (See Exhibit D)

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

7. State Hurricane Shelter Retrofit Funding Offer

County Manager Carlisle stated the Division of Emergency Management was offering funding for a hurricane shelter retrofit grant to Glades County for the Ortona Community Center. He stated they would not be able to do the retrofit for the Washington Park Community Center because it was too close to the dike. He stated the Division of Emergency Management would fund reimbursable dollars to do a survey of the Ortona Community Center to see what needed to be done to make it available as a hurricane shelter. He stated the funding was reimbursable up to \$29,000.00.

Commissioner Storter Long stated she was very glad to her of this project. She suggested the Property Management Agreement include language regarding the building being a hurricane shelter and that nothing could be done to the building to make it not shelter worthy. She stated she did not feel that too much would have to be done to the building to make it a shelter.

Chairman Ahern agreed.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Commissioner Pryor the Board accepted the proposed grant through the Division of Emergency Management for the hurricane shelter retrofit of the Ortona Community Center and authorized Glades County Emergency Management Director, Angie S. Colegrove, to accept the proposed grant proposal on behalf of the Board via email by Tuesday, March 28, 2017.

Vice Chairman Stanley asked who would operate the shelter in the event of a storm.

County Manager Carlisle stated the shelter would be operated through the Emergency Management Department. He stated there would also be volunteers on site. He stated the Red Cross and Salvation Army would also come in.

Vice Chairman Stanley suggested establishing a set of rules regarding pets, among other things, to be followed in the event the building was used as a shelter.

Commissioner Storter Long stated the building would not necessarily be a special needs or pet shelter unless the Board decided to make it that way.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

8. Encumber SHIP Funds

Susan Whidden, SHIP Administrator, requested approval of a Barrier Free Rehabilitation in the amount of \$10,200.00. She stated she realized that this amount was really high for a wheel chair ramp but she had called around to several contractors to get a few numbers

since she could not go out to bid until the Board approved the encumbrance of funds. She stated she hoped the bid would be nowhere near this amount. She explained that there were numerous factors that would affect the final number.

Commissioner Storter Long questioned the bids coming in high due to the fact that the contractors would know in advance the amount that had been awarded.

Mrs. Whidden stated it was the same case when she went out for bids for re-builds. She stated the Board would have to trust that the contractors would provide honest, accurate bids.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if any of the local charity groups could possibly build the wheel chair ramp.

Mrs. Whidden stated she had exhausted all resources prior to bringing this item to the Board. She stated there were several groups in town that could build the ramp; however, some of them only did one project per year and some only did a project when they had funding.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if the applicant was served by Glades Electric.

Mrs. Whidden stated the home was located within the City limits and Glades Electric could not assist with the project.

Commissioner Strenth stated he had built a wheel chair ramp for his parents nearly 15 years and had \$1,000.00 in materials alone.

Mrs. Whidden reminded the Board that once the project was sent out for bid if the Board did not like the price they could always reject it.

ON MOTION of Vice Chairman Stanley seconded by Commissioner Strenth the Board approved Application 2017-Barrier Free Rehab-1 encumbering SHIP funds in the amount of \$10,200.00 and authorized the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Board.

Commissioner Storter Long questioned the definition of “barrier free”.

County Manager Carlisle stated the funds were used to remove handicap barriers for disabled people.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

9. Encumber SHIP Funds

Mrs. Whidden requested approval of a Down Payment Assistance in the amount of \$15,000.00. She stated the applicant did not have a contract on the home and was

currently in the application process with 2 different loan companies to get approved for funding.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if this was why there was no more information available in the packet.

Mrs. Whidden stated that this was correct. She stated she did not have any more information about the loan at this time.

County Manager Carlisle clarified that the Board would be approving the encumbrance of SHIP funds based on the applicant's ability to get financing.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Pryor seconded by Vice Chairman Stanley the Board approved Application 2017-DPA-2 encumbering SHIP funds in the amount of \$15,000.00 based upon the applicant's ability to get financing and authorized the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Board.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

10. Glades County Behavioral Health Transportation Plan

County Manager Carlisle stated this was now a requirement by the State. He stated whenever Glades County had anyone transported under a Baker Act or a Marchman Act the County had to have a transportation plan regarding where the person would be taken for assessment and/or treatment.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Commissioner Pryor the Board approved the Glades County Behavioral Health Transportation Plan and authorized the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Board. (See Exhibit E)

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

There was no discussion.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

There was no discussion.

COUNTY MANAGER & DEPARTMENT HEADS

County Manager Carlisle stated the final inspection would be done on the Moore Haven Canal tomorrow. He stated the Loves Travel Center had opened its doors. He stated the ribbon cutting would be held on Thursday, March 30th at 10:00 a.m. He invited everyone to attend. He stated the diesel shop and the welding shop were now under construction at the Training Facility. He stated the slab was poured this morning. He stated he and staff were discussing the development of a heavy equipment training course with South

Florida Water Management District and I-Tech. He stated he would also be talking with Kelley Tractor about possibly donating some equipment for use by the students. He stated with the anticipation of the Army Corps projects and numerous Water Management projects there was a severe shortage of heavy equipment operators. He stated if certification could be obtained then Work Force would pay for the training. He stated the County had been without a Building Official for some time now. He stated an offer had been extended to the County's former Building Official – Mr. Merritt; however, he had not received a response yet. He stated the position would remain open until filled.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if County Manager Carlisle had given any thought to hiring Mr. Merritt as a contractor versus an employ.

County Manager Carlisle stated he had not approached him with this. He stated this would not be an option for Mr. Merritt because in order for him to be hired as a contractor he would have to have his provisional license. He stated he had to be a County employee to get the provisional license. He stated once he gets the license he could work as a contractor.

Commissioner Storter Long expressed her disappointment with the County's recycling program. She stated the recycling trailer that was located near the scale house at the Ortona Transfer Station had not been moved in weeks. She stated sometimes there were 2 trailers at that location. She stated the building was only opened on Wednesday since the bailer was broken. She stated she would not be putting anymore material in the trailer and would be transporting her recyclables to Hendry County. She stated several residents of Ortona shared her same thoughts. She asked that County Manager Carlisle consider placing a trailer at the Ortona Community Center.

County Manager Carlisle stated he could place a trailer there; however, he reminded the Board of the problems that had been encountered the last time this was done.

Commissioner Storter Long stated the trailer was out in the open before and suggested putting it in a different location.

Chairman Ahern stated they could try it and see what happened.

Commissioner Storter Long commented on the phenomenal amount of work that was put into the Recycling Program. She asked that County Manager Carlisle hold off with placing a trailer at the Ortona Community Center until after the Association's Board meeting on April 3rd. She stated she would ask the residents then about the possibility of placing a trailer there and get their comments.

County Manager Carlisle stated he would wait to hear from Commissioner Storter Long.

PUBLIC INPUT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There was none.

COMMISSIONERS ITEMS AND COMMENTS

Commissioner Strenth had no comments.

Vice Chairman Stanley had no comments.

Commissioner Storter Long commented on the recent Honey Festival held in Muse. She stated the weather had been great weather and the community was off to a good start with the festival. She stated 11 vendors had been present. She invited everyone to attend the Ice Cream Social at the Ortona Community Center on Thursday night at 6:00 p.m. She stated after a very brief meeting Sheriff Hardin would address those in attendance. She reminded everyone of the meeting that would be held at the Ortona Community Center and hosted by the Sierra Club tomorrow night.

Commissioner Pryor commented on his and County Manager Carlisle's recent trip to Tallahassee to defend Glades County's interest against several bills that would be very detrimental to the County. He stated County Manager Carlisle had done a great job presenting what Glades County stood for and what we would fight for. He stated he was ready to go back next week.

Chairman Ahern stated he had attended the Honey Festival as well. He stated it had turned out very nice. He stated he had walked some of the nature trails behind the building. He stated the County may be asked in the future to maintain some of these trails. He stated County Manager Carlisle and him had gone Friday and done a pre-inspection of the Moore Haven Canal. He stated the project had turned out well and the canal looked very good. He stated the landscaping would begin soon. He stated everything seemed to be moving along fine on the new bond issue at GCDC. He stated the population was up to 448 as of today. He stated the rodeo grounds had been used for a circus this past weekend. He invited everyone to attend the Food Truck Invasion next Monday, April 3rd. He stated the demolition of several older buildings downtown had started today and the City had become the owner of the old Abstract Building today. He stated demolition of that building would begin soon.

ADJOURN

ON MOTION of Commissioner Pryor seconded by Commissioner Storter Long the Board adjourned the meeting.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Ahern adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

John Ahern, Chairman

ATTEST:

Sandra H. Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court

Approved: April 11, 2017

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