

MINUTES OF THE GLADES COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING ON MONDAY, APRIL 23, 2018 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, April 23, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. with the following Commissioners present:

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

Others present:

Sandra H. Brown, Clerk of Court
Tiffany Patterson, Finance Director
Paul Carlisle, County Manager
Susan Whidden, BOCC Administrative Assistant
Bob Jones, Public Safety Director
Cindy Ricker, SHIP Coordinator
David Hardin, Glades County Sheriff
Jerry Randolph, Public Works Director
Gabrielle Ibietatorremendia, Human Resources Director
Gail Jones, Tax Collector
Aletris Farnam, Supervisor of Elections
Christopher Felker, Glades County Democrat
6 citizens

CALL TO ORDER

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

PRAYER

Commissioner Storter Long gave the invocation.

PLEDGE

Crystal Drake led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS

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

PRESENTATIONS / AWARDS

1. Older Americans Month Proclamation

Ms. Kristin O'Donald, Area Agency on Aging for Southwest Florida, explained the Proclamation declaring "Older Americans Month." She stated this was an initiative of the US Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Community Living. She

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stated this was celebrated every May annually. She stated this proclamation essentially honored the contributions of older Americans and to remind folks to treat older Americans with the same respect and dignity that they would anyone else. She stated the Area Agency on Aging for Southwest Florida served 7 counties, including Glades County. She stated they served the elderly and people with disabilities in the area through a variety of federally and state funded services. She stated she appreciated the opportunity to be present tonight.

County Manager Carlisle read the Proclamation declaring May 2018 as Older Americans Month into the record as follows:

Whereas, Glades County is home to more than 3,800 adults age 60 and over who enrich and strengthen our community; and

Whereas, The Area Agency on Aging for Southwest Florida is committed to engaging and supporting older adults, their families, and caregivers in Glades County and across Southwest Florida; and

Whereas, The Area Agency on Aging is celebrating its 40th year of serving our regions elders in September of 2018; and

Whereas, Older Americans Month is led by the Administration for Community Living's Administration on Aging, and is celebrated across the country by individuals, organizations and municipalities to improve the quality of life for older adults; and

Whereas, the 2018 theme for Older Americans Month is "Engage at Every Age" and emphasizes the importance of being active and involved in every phase of life; and

Whereas, Glades County acknowledges the importance of taking part in activities that promote physical, mental, and emotional well-being – no matter your age; and

Whereas, the people of Glades County can enrich the lives of individuals of *every age* by:

- Promoting home and community based services that support independent living;
- Involving older adults in community planning, events, and other activities; and
- Providing opportunities for older adults to work, volunteer, learn, lead, and mentor.

Now therefore, We, the Glades County Board of County Commissioners do hereby recognize May 2018 to be Older Americans Month. We urge every resident to take time during this month to recognize older adults and the people who serve them as vital parts of our community.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Commissioner Strenth the Board adopted a Proclamation declaring May 2018 as Older Americans Month and authorized the Chairman to sign the proclamation.

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Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were none.

CONSENT AGENDA

2. **Approved payment of County Warrants. (Exhibit A)**
General Fund: 83125 – 83212
Direct Pay – ACH – 007 – 014
SHIP: 1711 – 1713
E911 Maintenance Grant: 120
Buckhead Ridge Utility: 235

ON MOTION of Commissioner Pryor seconded by 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

3. **Emergency Closure and Pay for Employees**

County Manager Carlisle stated the Board had asked him to propose a policy after the discrepancies with employee pay and emergency pay after Hurricane Irma. He stated he had done a lot of research on communities throughout Florida and was surprised to find that many agencies did not have policies. He stated he shared the proposed policy with Mr. Jones and Mrs. Ibiatorremendia for their comments. He stated the document was acceptable. He stated no other agency was paying double time; all were paying time and a half. He stated there were parameters outlined in the policy that dictated how 24 hour shifts would be handled, as well as, being on lock down. He stated the policy was pretty comprehensive. He stated the policy would also be recognized by FEMA. He stated the policy made clear that County employees had a duty and a responsibility to perform duties during an emergency. He stated all employees played a key part in emergency recovery and preparedness.

Commissioner Storter Long questioned events other than weather events.

County Manager Carlisle stated the weather was what usually locked an employee down to a certain facility. He suggested adding language to the policy that would state “if the weather ‘or conditions’ warrant” the employees could leave the facility.

Vice Chairman Stanley asked if an EMT who was on a 24 hour shift would receive any extra pay for being on lockdown.

County Manager Carlisle stated the EMT would be paid his 24 hour shift at time and a half if the facility was on lockdown.

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Commissioner Storter Long asked if the EMT would be pay time and a half even if he was working his/her normal shift.

County Manager Carlisle stated if an employee was on a 24 hour shift they would not get administrative leave; only the time and a half pay.

Vice Chairman Stanley clarified that a Road Department employee who was required to stay at the Road Department during a storm event would only be paid time and a half while there and not an additional 8 hours administrative leave pay.

County Manager Carlisle stated this was correct.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if this policy would become a part of the Personnel Policy/Manual. She asked if written acknowledgement from all employees would be required.

County Manager Carlisle stated the policy would become a part of the Personnel Policy/Manual and would be submitted as a supplement to each employee.

Vice Chairman Stanley stated he believed each Department needed to notify the Board of how many employees would be required to stay in lock down during an event.

County Manager Carlisle stated each Department Head should have a list of key personnel that will be provided to the Board. He stated Emergency Management would have to determine how many employees were needed on staff. He stated every employee may be needed. He stated employees may need to shift out.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if the courthouse was closed during an event if the employees there would receive regular pay or time and a half.

County Manager Carlisle stated this was correct, unless the employee was assigned to work.

Commissioner Storter Long stated Highlands County required their employees to sign an affidavit when they received their Employee Manual stating that they would be subject to being on-call during a storm. She stated a Highlands County employee that left during the storm had lost his job over this. She asked if the County employees would be subject to termination if they did not come in while on-call.

County Manager Carlisle stated the employees were hired to support the County and to be here during emergency situations. He stated every situation would be different. He stated there was a provision in the policy that would allow the employee to leave during an event. He stated he could not have every employee fleeing.

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Commissioner Storter Long stated it was usually the EOC, EMS, and Road Department employees that were required to stay.

County Manager Carlisle stated his administrative staff and HR staff had worked the entire storm, along with the Sheriff's Department. He stated the Board really needed to emphasize to staff and the residents that Emergency Management tells us to hide from the wind and run from the water. He stated if employees were not in an evacuation zone they did not need to leave.

Commissioner Storter Long stated part of the reason for the chaos was that the Governor had ordered people to evacuate.

County Manager Carlisle stated people typically lost their lives due to water and not from winds. He stated he believed Ms. Colegrove and her staff had done an excellent job during Hurricane Irma. He stated her efforts had been well noted.

Vice Chairman Stanley stated this was the reason he believed the employees who were going to be asked to come in ahead of time should be named and notified.

Commissioner Storter Long agreed that these positions needed to be determined in advance.

Sandra H. Brown, Clerk of Court, questioned the statement on page 2 that stated employees who chose to evacuate the area and could not respond would be required to use annual leave and would not receive administrative leave; those employees that were required to respond in the event of an emergency that chose to evacuate the area and could not respond may receive disciplinary actions up to and including termination. She asked if the courthouse was closed and all employees were sent home, would the employees be paid administrative leave or be required to use annual leave.

County Manager Carlisle stated those employees would receive administrative leave; however, if the employee left the County and could not respond they would not.

Ms. Brown asked for clarification on evacuation and returning to work when the courthouse reopened.

Commissioner Storter Long questioned mandatory evacuations.

County Manager Carlisle stated the people would be evacuated to certain areas. He stated some employees did not live within the County so the Board could not put restrictions on leaving the County. He stated if an employee left and was in Georgia they would receive annual leave pay.

Ms. Brown questioned someone already being scheduled to be off during an event.

County Manager Carlisle stated if it was already scheduled then the vacation time would stay and the employee would not receive administrative leave.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if this would apply to EMS employees who were not scheduled to work.

County Manager Carlisle agreed.

ON MOTION Vice Chairman Stanley seconded by Commissioner Storter the Board approved the Emergency Closure and Pay for Employees Policy with noted revisions and authorized the Human Resources Department to add it to the Policy and Procedure Manual.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

4. County Tax Deed Applications

Gail Jones, Tax Collector, stated pursuant to Florida Statute the Board must apply for tax deed on those certificates held by the County that were mature enough for application and the assessed value was \$5,000.00 or more. She stated there were 389 County 2016 certificates that were mature enough for tax deed applications. She stated of these, 41 had a current assessed value of \$5,000.00 or more. She stated the County would pay the tax deed application fee in the amount of \$115.00 each. She stated since the list had been prepared, 7 more certificates had been paid. She stated there were now 34 certificates that the Board must apply on. She stated the total due would be \$3,910.00. She stated she may have others redeem prior to the Board making payment. She stated she would give Mrs. Patterson an updated figure, if needed.

Commissioner Pryor clarified that the Board did not have to apply on the other 348 certificates.

Mrs. Jones stated this was correct. She explained that the certificates would not go away, but would remain on the list for 7 years if not redeemed. She stated the County would have the opportunity to change their mind next year if they wanted to pay the certificate later or it could still be paid by the landowner.

Commissioner Storter Long asked how the certificates were affected by homestead.

Mrs. Jones stated the homestead exemption would not affect the County. She stated when the Clerk's office figured the starting bid on that certificate, half of the assessed value would have to be added to the amount of unpaid taxes due.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Pryor seconded by Commissioner Strenth the Board the Board approved applying for tax deed sale on the 34 properties assessed at \$5,000.00 or more as required by Florida Statute 197.502(3) for a total of \$3,910.00. The Board agreed to decline application on the other 348 certificates that were available.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

5. Research Service Agreement

County Manager Carlisle stated some discussions had been held in February regarding having a feasibility study done to extend sewer services South of the River. He stated he had begun negotiating with Florida Gulf Coast University. He stated the study would cost \$36,050.00 if the Board chose to move forward. He stated there would be several meetings with land owners and the community. He stated the County wanted to know what the short term and long term potential would be for the area.

Chairman Ahern stated this study and possible reimbursement had been discussed several months ago at the City County Public Works Authority meeting.

Vice Chairman Stanley stated if the Board voted today it would most likely end up paying the for the entire study since the City County Public Works Authority had not yet taken a vote on reimbursement.

Chairman Ahern agreed.

Commissioner Storter Long stated this study would provide a lot of information beyond the need for sewer.

Chairman Ahern stated the City and County would continue to look for grant funding.

Commissioner Pryor commented on the need for the study and the need to apply for funding with all of the water quality issues that were being discussed in the legislature right now.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Vice Chairman Pryor the Board approved the Research Service Agreement between Glades County and Florida Gulf Coast University Board of Trustees and authorized the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Board. (See Exhibit C)

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

6. Budget Transfer

County Manager Carlisle stated this budget request would cover the cost of the feasibility study (Glades Utility Study). He stated \$36,050.00 would be transferred from Contingency to BoCC Professional Services.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by vice Chairman Stanley the Board approved a budget transfer from Contingency to BoCC Professional Services in the amount of \$36,050.00 to cover the cost of the Glades Utility Study and authorized the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Board.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

Commissioner Pryor asked Chairman Ahern to request that this item be placed on the next agenda for the City County Public Works Authority meeting.

7. Glades County Independent Contractor Agreement

Chairman Ahern stated the Board had discussed hiring Mr. Carlisle as an independent consultant at its last meeting. He stated both Caleb Pringle and Richard Pringle had worked on this proposed agreement.

Commissioner Storter Long referred to the dates needed under Section 5 and asked if Monday, April 30th would be a good effective date for County Manager Carlisle.

County Manager Carlisle stated that date would be alright with him. He stated he would not start his employment with the City of Sebastian until May 1st. He explained that the City of Sebastian had given him 4 weeks after the date of his employment with them to spend one day a week here in Glades County. He stated he could also work after hours and on his own time via email and telephone.

Commissioner Storter Long suggested County Manager Carlisle be here on April 30th and on-call for other days. She asked if County Manager Carlisle would be paid by the City of Sebastian on the Mondays that he worked here in Glades County.

County Manager agreed to the dates and stated he would not be paid by the City of Sebastian on the days he worked for Glades County.

Chairman Ahern stated after reviewing the contract he had 2 concerns. He stated the first of these was the County finances and the other was the vacancy in the Planning & Zoning Department. He stated the other departments were being taken care of pretty well. He asked if County Manager Carlisle would consider doing the work for \$125.00/hour instead of \$150.00/hour.

County Manager Carlisle stated he would consider doing the work for \$125.00/hour. He asked about his annual leave and sick time that was still on the books. He stated the Employee Manual stated that if he left the County's employment in good standing he would be paid his annual leave time but none of the sick leave. He asked the Board to consider paying him the balance on his annual leave. He stated he believed \$125.00/hour was a reasonable rate.

Chairman Ahern stated the annual leave was earned and he did not have a problem paying County Manager Carlisle the balance.

Commissioner Strenth asked how many hours had accumulated.

County Manager Carlisle stated he had 182 hours of annual leave.

Commissioner Strenth stated he had no problem paying the balance.

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County Manager Carlisle expressed concern with Section 2 of the agreement. He stated he would not be entering into any contracts without written approval from the Chairman but he was worried about violating the Sunshine Law. He stated if one of the other Commissioners talked with Chairman Ahern about an issue and then the Chairman talked with him and relayed the information back to the other Commissioner there would be a violation. He expressed concern with putting everything through one Commissioner.

Commissioner Storter Long suggested directing Chairman Ahern to contact County Manager Carlisle with issues and then if clarification was needed County Manager Carlisle could contact the other Commissioners.

County Manager Carlisle stated Jenny Allen would have questions in the Planning & Zoning Department that would require immediate attention. He expressed concern with Mrs. Allen having to contact the Chairman and then the Chairman having to contact him. He stated he was concerned with getting things done. He stated he had spoken with Alexis Crespo and she was willing to work through Attorney Pringle to address Mrs. Allen's issues immediately.

Commissioner Storter Long expressed concern with Section 4 of the contract. She questioned what would be a reasonable amount of hours each week.

County Manager Carlisle stated he would obviously not be spending 40 hours per week here. He stated his time would really depend on what items the Board wished him to focus on each week. He stated the list needed to be prioritized.

Commissioner Storter Long agreed that the list should be prioritized. She stated items with certain deadlines needed to be addressed first.

County Manager Carlisle stated the CDBG grant had some very strict time frames; however, Fred Fox knew these time frames. He stated Charles Wide would be the County's contact at the Department of Economic Opportunity.

Commissioner Storter Long stated the Board would need to authorize Chairman Ahern to sign any necessary documents in the absence of a County Manager.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Commissioner Pryor the Board amended the agenda to add Item 8 – Authorize the Chairman to sign items that were customarily signed by the County Manager.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

County Manager Carlisle stated there would be some large land use changes discussed at the next Planning & Zoning meeting on May 8th that would then come before the Board. He stated he had hired Johnson Engineering to do the staff report. He stated he could attend both of these meetings if the Board so desired.

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The Board agreed that County Manager Carlisle would be present at the May 8th Planning & Zoning meeting and when the items were presented to the Board.

Commissioner Storter Long suggested making the commencement date April 30, 2018 and the initial term end date May 28, 2018. She stated the Board could always extend the contract later if needed.

County Manager Carlisle stated those dates could be extended if needed.

Chairman Ahern stated the day of the week would be flexible.

County Manager Carlisle stated the agreement could be renewed if the Board so desired.

Chairman Ahern stated County Manager Carlisle had agreed to \$125.00 per hour for compensation.

Commissioner Pryor stated County Manager Carlisle would also be paid for his vacation time.

Commissioner Strenth asked where the Board was act as far as communicating with County Manager Carlisle.

Chairman Ahern stated Jenny Allen would be able to communicate directly with County Manager Carlisle.

Commissioner Storter Long stated all other communication should be channeled through one person.

Vice Chairman Stanley stated he would contact Susan if he needed to speak with County Manager Carlisle.

Commissioner Storter Long suggested one way emails so that there was not direct contact and dialogue.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Pryor seconded by Commissioner Strenth the Board approved the Consulting Agreement between Glades County and Paul Carlisle with the rate of pay to be in the amount of \$125.00 per hour; authorized payment of any accrued vacation time; approved the commencement date of April 30th and an end date of May 28th; and authorized the Chairman to sign.

Motion carried 5 – 0 vote.

County Manager Carlisle stated he would have the use of the County cell phone and access to 1 file on the server.

8. Authorize the Chairman to Sign documents customarily signed by the County Manager (This item was added to the agenda by amendment)

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Commissioner Pryor the Board authorized Chairman Ahern to sign documents that were customarily signed by County Manager Carlisle beginning on April 28th.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

Aletris Farnam, Glades County Supervisor of Elections, thanked Vice Chairman Stanley and Commissioner Pryor for attending the Canvassing Board workshop. She stated she had learned a lot at the workshop.

David Hardin, Sheriff, stated he had 479 prisoners in house and 24 more inmates on the way. He stated he had received an email today stating that this year was Glades County's 97th Anniversary. He asked if this was true.

Commissioner Storter Long stated the County was formed in 1921 so that would be correct.

Gabrielle Ibietatorremendia, Human Resources Officer, stated she had advertised the County Manager position and had also recruited through various other websites. She stated she had received some inquiries and had received several applications.

Jerry Randolph, County Road Superintendent, stated the American Public Works Association (APWA) would advertise the position for the County free of charge.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

There was no discussion.

COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Carlisle stated he had attended a good meeting with Scott Bass, School Superintendent, and the Fort Myers Technical School today. He stated there was some interest there in bringing some training to Glades County. He stated they seemed to be pretty impressed with the facility. He stated he appreciated working for Glades County and the support of the Board, residents, Constitutional Officers, etc. He stated he believed all of them together had accomplished a lot of things in the County. He stated this would not be an easy move. He stated the County was in a better place because of the support and the Board members working together. He stated he hoped this continued. He stated it had been a pleasure to work with a Board that was moving forward with like minds. He stated the staff had also been phenomenal to work with.

Chairman Ahern stated he appreciated everything County Manager Carlisle had done for the County.

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Commissioner Strenth asked how the joint efforts with Hendry County were going with the Training Center.

County Carlisle stated Scott Bass had stepped in and was doing a great job. He stated Mr. Bass had better contacts through the school system than he did. He stated they had met with Fort Myers Tech and another meeting set up with Florida Gulf Coast University. He stated Mr. Bass had been talking with Indian River Community College as well.

PUBLIC INPUT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Laura Perry, Glades Education Foundation, presented the School's plan to put together a summer camp for local youth. She handed out an update on the plan. (Exhibit B - Moore Haven city Camp Update April 23, 2018). She pointed out that the Glades Education Foundation had been trying to get a summer camp off the ground for the kids like was offered several years ago. She stated the camp gave these children somewhere to go and something to do during the summer. She stated the previous camp had fallen apart and for many years the kids had not had one. She stated last year, as a strategic initiative for the Glades Education Foundation, they had put together a program and bused students over to the Clewiston City Camp. She stated the Glades Education Foundation had helped to pay the students' registration fees. She stated the busing was paid for. She stated she felt strongly that some local groups needed to come together to get this summer camp off the ground. She stated she had talked with the City Council and they were interested in contributing some funds. She stated she was here tonight to see if the Board would also consider contributing funds to the program. She stated she would be contacting Glades County Youth Livestock as well. She stated from July 9th through July 20th the kids would arrive 7:30 a.m., eat breakfast, attend some type of activity, eat lunch at the school cafeteria, and then their parents would pick them up at approximately 1 or 1:30 p.m. She stated Felinda Langdale, Principle at the Moore Haven Elementary School was on board with the program. She stated Mrs. Langdale had some teachers in mind that were willing to supervise the children. She stated there were also some paraprofessionals that would be paid at a lower rate to help with supervision of the children. She stated Scott Bass and Jim Brickel had committed to provide the transportation and had already pre-ordered food for the meals. She stated she would be sending applications out with all of the students ages 5 – 12. She stated each student would have to apply for the program. She stated the biggest costs would be paying the teachers. She stated a certified teacher was typically paid about \$25.00/hour but a paraprofessional was paid roughly \$15.00/hour. She stated she was anticipating having approximately 40 – 50 students. She stated 4 – 5 teachers would need to be hired. She stated the summer program would costs approximately \$8,000.00 to \$10,000.00. She stated this figure would include materials, supplies, and crafts for the children to do. She stated the camp would be based at Moore Haven Elementary School. She stated they would like to charge a nominal fee to attend the camp. She stated the fee would cover admission charges to the movies or the City pool in Moore Haven. She stated the fee would also show commitment on behalf of the family to bring their child.

Chairman Ahern stated the item was not on the agenda so the Board could not take action tonight.

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Commissioner Pryor stated he worked with the Education Foundation and they did an outstanding job for the children and the communities. He stated he would like to see the Board provide some funding for the program.

Commissioner Storter Long stated Mrs. Perry had indicated that Mr. Bass would be providing transportation but then stated the parents would be dropping off and picking up the students. She stated the Ortona Community Association hosted a summer program for 2 weeks every summer. She stated the family only had to be a member of the Ortona Community Association. She stated all of the communities fundraisers paid for the program. She stated the program was free to the children. She stated the Community Association had put out approximately \$3,600.00 and had not asked the County for funding. She stated asked how the children from Buckhead or Lakeport would be able to attend without transportation.

Mrs. Perry stated the parents would have to transport the children to and from the program. She explained that the busing she had referred to was to bus the children to and from day trips only.

Commissioner Storter Long stated the families that live here in the City would not really have any transportation costs. She stated it sounded like Mrs. Perry was asking the County to fund a program for Moore Haven children only. She suggested if Ortona was able to fund their own program that maybe the City of Moore Haven could fund their own.

County Manager Carlisle asked how much Mrs. Perry was asking for from the County.

Mrs. Perry stated if each entity could contribute at least \$2,000.00 it would be very helpful.

Commissioner Strenth stated he would write Mrs. Perry a check for \$1,000.00 to help fund the program.

Mrs. Perry clarified that the camp would be open to all Glades County students.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if Mrs. Perry had thought about hosting the program somewhere besides Moore Haven.

Mrs. Perry stated she was not sure that could be pulled off in the program's inaugural year.

Commissioner Storter Long stated the Ortona community may consider attending if there was transportation.

Commissioner Pryor stated the program was being offered to Glades County. He stated everyone needed to put the Ortona, Moore Haven, Buckhead Ridge, etc. deal aside.

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Commissioner Starter Long stated she would not. She asked how she could justify spending money if it was all sent to one place such as Buckhead or to Muse.

Vice Chairman Stanley stated children in the Buckhead Ridge area attended Okeechobee County summer camps.

Mrs. Perry stated there were various unknowns. She stated she did not believe she could get the program off the ground this summer for other areas. She stated she would love to see it expand in the future.

Chairman Ahern asked if the Board wanted to make this an agenda item for the next Board meeting. He stated he would have Mrs. Patterson look at the budget and see if she could find any funding.

Commissioner Starter Long asked what the Board would do if the Ortona Community Association came in and asked for money for their summer camp.

Chairman Ahern stated he believed funding such as this should be included in the budget if the Board wanted to help the different communities. He asked that the item be placed on the next agenda.

Commissioner Strenth asked how much Mrs. Perry was requesting from the Board.

Mrs. Perry stated she would like to see at least \$2,000.00 from the County, if possible.

Commissioner Strenth stated he would cover the cost for this year and the Commissioners could look into possibly funding next year's program during this year's budget workshops.

Chairman Ahern stated he would like to place the item on the agenda so that Mrs. Perry could report what funding had been found and how the program was coming along.

COMMISSIONERS ITEMS AND COMMENTS

Chairman Ahern stated County Manager Carlisle had provided each Commissioner a list of projects that were pending in the County. He asked if County Manager Carlisle would bring the Board up to date on some of the projects listed.

County Manager Carlisle stated the administrative agreement had been approved for the CDBG Small Cities Grant and he was waiting for DEO to approve. He stated an agreement would then be done with Fred Fox. He stated the Love's CDBG grant was nearing close out so the Board needed to work with Mr. Fox on closing. He stated he was continuing to work on making contacts for the Glades Inn site. He stated the Alvin Ward Boat Ramp parking lot would be used by Suncoast Trucking for their truck driving school and training. He stated a permit from the Army Corps would be needed. He stated an air boat ramp would be added at the Indian Prairie Canal boat ramp. He stated Andy Tilton of Johnson Engineering was working on the "no permit" exemption letter for work

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that Mr. Randolph had done to stabilize the bank at the Moore Haven Canal after Hurricane Irma. He stated staff needed to make sure the Moore Haven Canal permit did not expire and was renewed when required. He stated this permit would be difficult to get back if the County lost it. He stated the permit had been renewed right after he was hired and the permit was for 5 years. He stated the permit should be coming up for renewal in September.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if this was the permit that AIM Engineering had helped with.

County Manager Carlisle stated this was correct. He mentioned the culvert in Lakeport that was causing all of the flooding. He stated the dialog needed to continue with Water Management and the Army Corps of Engineers.

Chairman Ahern stated Gary Russ was going to have a discussion with Water Management about this issue.

County Manager Carlisle stated the discussions and communications regarding the water storage on the North end of the Lake had been silent. He stated he was not sure what was going on.

There was a brief discussion regarding storing water for other counties and how the County would be compensated.

County Manger Carlisle stated the Moore Haven Campground with the Army Corps of Engineers was still being discussed. He stated he had contacted the Colonel and advised her that he and Chairman Ahern were meeting with a prospect who was interested in running the campground. He stated her response had been that the new administration was more open to economic development and infrastructure and if the project did not seem to be moving forward to contact her again. He stated the Army Corps of Engineers wanted to put a monitoring well in the spray field. He stated he had informed them that he was not going to allow them to put a monitoring well in a spray field for our sewer sprays to show the water quality of the Lake because this would be a false reading. He stated he had been told the monitoring well would not be used for water quality purposes. He stated he had informed them that he would need assurances that the well would not be used in the future for water quality purposes. He stated the Corps had agreed and understood and had sent a new proposed agreement for the well. He stated he would not recommend that the Board sign the agreement. He stated there were not enough constraints on it and there was no termination date.

Commissioner Storter Long questioned why the Corps needed another monitoring well. She asked if it would be used for different tests.

County Manager Carlisle stated they wanted to see how far the salt water intrusion had gone and monitor the water to see if it improved after the cutoff wall was constructed. He stated the Board needed to continue to watch this issue. He stated the “no wake” signs

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needed to be installed at the Harney Pond Canal boat ramp. He stated there were floating cones but the signs needed to be up to make it enforceable. He stated he was trying to get the Indian Prairie Campground back. He stated the BOMA property sale needed to be monitored. He stated he understood the property would be flooded. He stated he believed the property had been listed but no one had offered to purchase it. He stated Jerry Randolph was working on the costs for SCOP and SCRAP. He stated he was waiting for the terms of the agreement for the first phase of County Road 74. He stated the engineering for the Pedestrian Bridge at Harney Pond was funded this year. He stated they were soliciting engineers to do the engineering and design for the bridge. He stated the County needed to submit an application for a trail grant for the Indian Prairie Canal bridge. He stated the County also needed to submit an application for a trail grant for the paving of the Lost Trail from Okeechobee County to Indian Prairie. He stated FDOT had agreed to do traffic studies every year and once the warrants were done would install the signals at no cost to the County. He stated the CR 78 intersections all needed improvements. He stated the County needed to request the traffic data from FDOT on the Hwy 80 signal that was installed going towards Alva. He asked what warranted a signal there and not at CR 78 East. He stated the language in the statute regarding outdoor signs needed to be reviewed. He stated FDOT should not be able to look off the road 660 feet and tell the County that a sign was illegal. He stated that was not the intent of the Federal Highway Authority. He stated if the requirements and regulations for County signs was met per the County's ordinance then FDOT should not have any jurisdiction over it.

Commissioner Storter Long stated this issue needed to be addressed in the legislature.

County Manager Carlisle stated this was correct and he did not feel that the legislature would fight the issue. He stated US 27 would be resurfaced. He explained the concerns with the sidewalks alongside the road in front of the Doyle Conner building and the old Health Department. He stated FDOT had agreed to make the entrance way between the two buildings 28 feet wide. He stated a sidewalk, curve, and 45 degree angle parking would be constructed in front of the Doyle Conner building. He stated FDOT wanted the County to deed over the property where the signal boxes were located in front of the Courthouse. He stated he had asked that FDOT redesign the sidewalk so that it came out behind the markings and people would not get directed out into the street. He suggested moving from the court system to a magistrate system on the County code violations. He stated the funds would come to the County and the funds could be used to help clean up some of the areas. He stated liens could be placed on properties. He commented on licensed street vendors and the County not having any assurance that these vendors were licensed and inspected. He stated there could be some liability for the County if these food trucks were on the County's right of way and the County was not regulating their use. He stated the business license regulations needed to be reestablished in the County. He stated part of the problem was that contractors who were trying to register with the State must have a County license. He stated the contractors were going to Hendry County and purchasing a license so that they could obtain their State license.

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Chairman Ahern stated he believed these regulations would give Mrs. Ward one more tool to look at possible revenue.

County Manager Carlisle stated the major subdivision regulations needed to be completed. He stated there were some terms and conditions that probably needed to be removed. He stated the Board needed to work on a more comprehensive 4H Ordinance. He stated the County was required by the State to do a Fertilizer Ordinance. He stated the proposed ordinance was similar to Hendry County's ordinance. He stated this ordinance exempted agricultural uses and other uses as long as they were a certain distance from the water. He stated the fuel tank removal and replacement bid award for Public Works would take place this week. He stated this item should be on the May 8th agenda. He stated funds would have to be transferred from Transportation Trust to fund the project. He stated SCOP and SCRAP projects were coming up. He stated a road inventory list needed to be compiled and the program needed to be reassessed. He stated the Cypress Knee Museum lease agreement with DEP needed to be reviewed. He stated the Board needed to decide whether or not they wished to keep the lease or cancel it. He stated the County had accepted the lease and a group that was formed was supposed to raise funds to improve the property. He stated Tom Gaskins, III was the contact for this project. He stated the Board may wish to take over the Lake Okeechobee Habitat Alliance (LOHA) lease on the property next to Curry Island. He stated the Board could consider adding this lease to the Cypress Knee Museum lease. He stated the people who currently had the lease had not done anything with the property. He stated there were some TIFF lands on CR 78 where people had been camping and he had contacted DEP about turning that lease over to the County and allowing it to run a campground on the property. He stated this way the County could regulate what was going on there. He stated although the County could implement a "No Camping" ordinance they would have no jurisdiction over the property without some sort of lease.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if the 911 and recycling grants had been taken care of.

County Manager Carlisle stated all of these grants were completed. He stated Mrs. Whidden had been approved last week for her 911 grant and the recycling grant was approved in December. He suggested keeping an eye on the 911 maintenance grant due to some revisions that were being made.

Commissioner Storter Long suggested that County Manager Carlisle make a list of priorities.

County Manager Carlisle stated the bathroom bids were not on the list as well as several other things.

Chairman Ahern asked how the Port LaBelle road project was coming along.

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County Manager Carlisle stated the SCOP and SCRAP projects were nearly done. He stated the crack sealing would be done by the end of the week. He stated the pavement would sit for 30 days and a cape seal would then be put on.

Vice Chairman Stanley asked Mr. Randolph if he had a plan for the mowing that was needed at the Moore Haven Canal.

Mr. Randolph stated he did not have any equipment that would do the job. He stated he could only do the mowing by hand.

Vice Chairman Stanley stated the issue needed to be addressed since the County had accepted maintenance of the property.

County Manager Carlisle stated the County had a submerged land lease over the entire canal.

Chairman Ahern stated he would work with Mr. Randolph on this issue.

Chairman Ahern stated all of the Commissioners had the opportunity today to meet with Mr. Helfenberger, who had applied for the interim County Manager position. He stated he had a very good visit with him. He asked what the Board's wishes were.

Commissioner Storter Long stated she had enjoyed her time with Mr. Helfenberger. She stated Mr. Helfenberger would be required to give 2 weeks' notice so she believed the Board should act quickly. She stated Ms. Ibietatorremendia was already working on filling the permanent position. She stated she felt the Board should hire an interim County Manager as soon as possible.

Vice Chairman Stanley stated he would be willing to negotiate with Mr. Helfenberger for the interim position.

County Manager Carlisle stated the Board could amend the agenda and authorize someone to negotiate the terms of an interim agreement with Mr. Helfenberger.

ON MOTION Vice Chairman Stanley seconded by Commissioner Storter Long the Board amended the agenda to add Item 9 – Discuss Interim County Manager position and negotiations with Mr. Helfenberger.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

9. Discuss Interim County Manager position and negotiations with Mr. Helfenberger (This item was added to the agenda by amendment)

Vice Chairman Stanley suggested that Chairman Ahern be authorized to negotiate with Mr. Helfenberger.

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Commissioner Storter Long stated Mr. Helfenberger had come highly recommended by Regina Reynolds.

Commissioner Pryor stated he had talked with Chris Doolin today and Mr. Doolin had informed him that he would be actively looking for someone for this position.

Commissioner Storter Long stated she felt Chairman Ahern should negotiate the contract and perhaps have Caleb Pringle assist him. She stated Richard Pringle's mother was still ill and he was not able to assist at this time.

Chairman Ahern stated Mr. Pringle's mother had recently passed. He stated he should have communicated this to the Board sooner. He stated he and County Manager Carlisle had attended the funeral in Immokalee this past week.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Commissioner Pryor the Board appointed Chairman Ahern and either Richard Pringle or Caleb Pringle to negotiate a contract for the interim County Manager position with Mr. Helfenberger.

Vice Chairman Stanley stated he would like to have something to vote on at the next meeting.

County Manager Carlisle stated the Board would have to approve the terms of the contract.

Commissioner Storter Long stated the Board needed to be ready to move at the May 8th meeting.

Chairman Ahern stated he would work with Mr. Pringle and Mr. Helfenberger to see if a contract for employment could be negotiated.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

Commissioner Strenth stated Lakeport's perfume factory had been bearable. He stated County Manager Carlisle had recently spoken with DEP about the issue and had been informed that the County would have to deal with the Federal Government. He stated the Lakeport Community Association would be holding a membership drive bar-b-que this Saturday. He stated the dues per family would be \$25.00. He commented on County Manager Carlisle and how he would be missed. He stated County Manager Carlisle had brought a lot of good changes to the County.

Vice Chairman Stanley stated he had spoken with the United Way on a telephone conference regarding their presence in Buckhead Ridge. He stated the United Way would address the community on Thursday at 6:00 p.m. He stated they were looking for funding and ways to get out into the community. He stated he would be meeting with Waste Management on Wednesday regarding mandatory garbage pickup in the Buckhead Ridge area.

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Commissioner Storter Long stated Aletris Farnam, Supervisor of Elections, had forwarded her a link regarding Marco Rubio's concerns with elections being tampered with. She stated she was glad the Board had moved forward with the purchase of the Albert Security Server for the Elections Office. She stated the recent RPC meeting had been cancelled due to lack of a quorum. She stated she would be meeting with the RPC Chairman in May concerning what the future expectations were for the RPC for each County. She stated the Ortona Community Association was wanting to have a local line land installed in the Community Center. She stated since the OCA did not own the building they would have to get permission from the Board. She asked Mrs. Patterson to tell the Board what she had told her.

Mrs. Patterson stated that since the County owned the building they could be responsible for the initial installation of the lines and then the OCA would be responsible for the monthly costs thereafter.

County Manager Carlisle stated he did not know why the County could not cover the cost of installation. He stated this was something the County may want to revisit at all of the community centers. He stated the County would want to make sure the line was for local calls only and not long distance.

Chairman Ahern suggested the OCA explore the options and that the item be added to the May 8th agenda.

Commissioner Pryor gave his farewells to County Manager Carlisle. He stated it had been a good ride and that County Manager Carlisle had made him a better person and the Board a better Board. He stated County Manager Carlisle was the reason the Board got along so well. He stated it had been a pleasure to work with him.

Chairman Ahern stated it had been a pleasure to work with County Manager Carlisle. He stated Glades Youth Livestock had raised \$304,900.00 at this year's sale. He stated the sale had been very successful.

ADJOURN

ON MOTION of Vice Chairman Stanley 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 8:10 p.m.

John Ahern, Chairman

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ATTEST:

Sandra H. Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court

Approved: May 29, 2018

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