

MINUTES OF THE GLADES COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING ON TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2018 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, May 8, 2018 at 9:00 a.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
Richard Pringle, County Attorney
Paul Carlisle, Consultant
Tiffany Patterson, Finance Director
Susan Whidden, BOCC Administrative Assistant
Gabrielle Ibietatorremendia, Human Resources Director
Jerry Randolph, Public Works Director
Bob Jones, Public Safety Director
H. L. Bennett, H. L. Bennett & Sons
Cindy Ricker, SHIP Coordinator
David Hardin, Glades County Sheriff
Chris Felker, Okeechobee News
Tracy Whirls, Executive Director – Glades EDC
Paul McGehee, Glades Electric Cooperative
Aletris Farnam, Supervisor of Elections
Joe Pepe, Health Department
8 citizens

CALL TO ORDER

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 INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS

There was none.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Oaks in the Sough Simple Subdivision

Attorney Pringle stated this public hearing related to the acceptance of a simple subdivision plat. He stated the application was submitted to the County for a project known as Oaks in the Slough. He stated the application had been reviewed by County staff and comments were made back to the Property Owner's representative. He stated revisions had been made and the staff had reviewed the additional submittals and were now acceptable. He stated this matter had been properly noticed.

County Manager Carlisle stated he had land lease for cattle with the applicant; however, he did not believe there would be a conflict of interest

Attorney Pringle stated the applicant's representative was present as well. He asked that the application, staff report and responses, and the applicant's additional submittals be made a part of the record.

Larry Bennett, H.L. Bennett & Sons, stated he represented the owners of the property. He stated the road involved was a private road and the County would have no maintenance responsibilities. He stated this was a 4 lot subdivision covering approximately 60 acres.

Chairman Ahern asked for public comment. There was none.

Attorney Pringle stated if the Board deemed this subdivision appropriate it would need to accept the subdivision plat and authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute the documents so that the applicant could then record the plat. He stated a private road maintenance agreement would be recorded simultaneously with the recording of the subdivision plat.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Pryor seconded by Commissioner Strenth the Board approved the final plat request for Oaks in the Slough subdivision and authorized the Chairman and the Clerk of Court to sign and record all necessary documents.

Commissioner Storter Long stated she was glad this simple subdivision had finally been approved. She stated this application had certainly not been simple. She stated the process had been quiet complex and she appreciated all of the hard work staff had done.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

2. Case COMP 18-02 Long Hammock Groves, Inc.

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Attorney Pringle stated the Community Development Department had requested that this hearing be continued until the May 29, 2018 meeting.

ON MOTION of Vice Chairman Stanley seconded by Commissioner Strenth the Board continued Case COMP 18-02 Long Hammock Groves, Inc. until the May 29, 2018 meeting.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

3. **Approved payment of County Warrants (Exhibit A)**
General Fund: 83213 – 83286
Intergovernmental Radio: 10351 -10352
SHIP: 1714 – 1716
Driver's Education: 10008
4. **Approved Minutes of the November 27, 2017 Regular Meeting**
5. **Approved Minutes of the January 11, 2018 Joint Meeting with Hendry County**
6. **Approved Minutes of the April 10, 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.

There was none.

BUSINESS AGENDA

7. Glades County Summer Program

Laura Perry, Glades Education Foundation, stated she was present to give an update on the Glades County Summer Program that they were trying to put together. She stated 2 teachers, 2 paraprofessionals, and 1 Glades County School District employee had stepped forward and agreed to supervise the summer camp. She stated the dates would of the camp would be July 9 – 20th. She stated the summer camp would consist of out of town field trips 2 – 3 times per week. She stated these trips would be to the Brahman Theater, bowling, Gatorama, the Clewiston Museum, and Fisheating Creek. She stated Felinda Langdale had checked with the School District on how much the school teachers and paraprofessionals typically received daily. She stated the daily rate for teachers would range from \$220.00 - \$270.00 for the time period of 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for 5 days a week/2 weeks. She stated the daily rate for paraprofessionals would range from \$75.00 - \$110.00 per day and the bus drivers would be paid for their time driving plus a mileage rate of \$1.25/mile. She stated the cost of the bus would range from \$60.00 - \$90.00 per trip. She stated the total cost for the 2 teachers would be approximately \$2,220.00 for 2 weeks and \$2,000.00 for the 2 paraprofessionals. She stated they were

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looking at a cost of \$6,000.00 - \$8,000.00 to pay the teachers and paraprofessionals. She stated these teachers would be supervising approximately 50 students. She stated an application had been developed and would go home with the students next week. She stated the applications would be due back prior to the end of the school year. She stated the fee to attend the summer camp would be \$40.00 - \$50.00 per week. She stated the money charged the families would help defray the cost of tickets to the movies, admission to Fisheating Creek, etc. She stated had asked the City of Moore Haven to donate funds, the H.E. Hill Foundation, Glades County Youth Livestock Association, and the Seminole Tribe. She stated the Glades Education Foundation would also be contributing funds. She stated the Glades County Youth Livestock Association had committed \$2,000.00 and would also be providing t-shirts for the children.

Chairman Ahern asked that Mrs. Perry get a shirt size on the applications. He stated GCYL would be ordering the shirts and would need the sizes.

Mrs. Perry stated she would take care of this matter.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if this camp would involve literacy.

Mrs. Perry stated there would be a separate literacy camp that would start the beginning of June.

Commissioner Storter Long questioned paying teacher's wages for supervision only. She stated the teacher's would not be teaching. She stated a day care employee could be hired for less money. She asked if there was a reason for this.

Mrs. Perry stated the Glades Education Foundation wanted to provide the parents with an assurance that an adult that was familiar with the children would be responsible there every day. She stated the teachers had had their state background checks. She stated some of the teachers and paraprofessionals were looking to make a little extra money during the summer. She stated the Foundation would be looking at other options in future years.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if there was a waiver or indemnification on the application.

Mrs. Perry stated as long as the students were participating in an activity on Moore Haven Elementary School's campus or taking Glades County School District transportation to an off campus activity it would be covered under the School District's policy.

Commissioner Strenth stated he was serious with his offer of \$2,000.00 at the previous meeting. He stated the Board could discuss putting aside money for next year's program during budget hearings.

Mrs. Perry stated she would really like the Board to consider contributing in the future. She stated she hoped to expand the program to include more students and perhaps more

time. She stated applications would be available at West Glades and Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School. She stated all students would be invited.

Chairman Ahern stated he had asked Mrs. Patterson to look into different funding ideas for next year's program.

Mrs. Patterson stated there were some additional funds within the general Board of County Commissioners budget that could be moved to the Promotional Activities budget if the Board so chose.

Chairman Ahern stated he knew that other organizations were looking to see what the Board chose to do and they were aware of Commissioner Strenth's generosity.

Commissioner Storter Long stated it was very generous of Commissioner Strenth to donate the funds. She stated she appreciated the efforts for the children.

Mrs. Perry stated this really would not be a Glades Education Foundation endeavor every year. She stated this was an item in the Foundation's strategic objectives. She stated the Foundation was really not in the business of running a summer camp. She stated she would be happy to volunteer the Foundation as the fiscal agent. She stated she would come back next year to give the Board an update on how their donations and monies were spent. She stated any overages would remain in the account and roll over to help fund next year's program.

Commissioner Strenth asked what other organizations had donated funds.

Chairman Ahern stated the City of Moore Haven would be voting at their next meeting regarding the request.

Mrs. Perry thanked the Board for their time and support.

8. CDBG and HHRP Mortgage Satisfactions

Cindy Ricker, SHIP Coordinator, stated the following mortgages were up for satisfaction. She stated the recipients had followed all of the terms and conditions of the mortgages and had completed the program – LaLaine and Alfred Collier – CDBG in the amount of \$14,805.28 and Mable Teal – HHRP in the amount of \$7,857.61.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Commissioner Pryor the Board approved the satisfaction of the following mortgages: Lalaine and Alfred Collier – CDBG in the amount of \$14,805.28 and Mable Teal – HHRP in the amount of \$7,857.61 and authorized the Chairman to sign the satisfactions on behalf of the Board.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

9. Revisions to the Housing LHAP

Cindy Ricker, SHIP Coordinator, requested a revision to the LHAP Disaster Recovery Strategy due to Hurricane Irma. She stated after the storm only the very low income

residents had received assistance. She suggested the assistance be extended to include the low income and moderate income residents as well. She stated these funds could be used to reimburse residents who had spent money out of pocket for repairs that were not covered by FEMA or insurance. She stated this would help the County reach its goals in spending the funds it was given.

County Manager Carlisle stated this would also allow the residents to fund repairs that had not been made. He stated some of the deductibles were extremely high due to it being a wind storm event. He stated he believed this would be a good step forward for the County.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Pryor seconded by Commissioner Starter Long the Board authorized Cindy Ricker, SHIP Coordinator, to make changes to the Glades County LHAP Disaster Recovery Strategy and authorized the Chairman to sign the LHAP documents on behalf of the Board.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

10. Award CDBG Grant Engineer pending DEO Approval

County Manager Carlisle stated an RFQ had been put out for the engineering, design, and oversight of the CDBG grant that had been received for Washington Park. He stated only 2 proposals had been received; one from AIM Engineering and one from Craig A Smith & Associates. He stated Craig A. Smith & Associates had been ranked the highest. He asked the Board to consider awarding the RFP to Craig A. Smith & Associates. He stated the County would still have to get approval from DEO.

ON MOTION of Vice Chairman Stanley seconded by Commissioner Strenth the Board awarded the bid for engineering and design of the Sanitary Sewer System CDBG Grant No. 18DB-OM-09-32-01-N19 to Craig A. Smith & Associates pending DEO approval and authorized the Chairman to sign all appropriate and necessary documents on behalf of the Board.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

11. FDOT Lease Agreement

County Manager Carlisle stated FDOT was resurfacing Hwy 27 and in doing so they must bring the road into ADA compliance. He stated there was no sidewalk in front of the Doyle Conner building. He stated this did not meet highway standards or ADA standards. He stated the original plan was to remove the parking lot in front of the Doyle Conner building. After negotiations with FDOT they had decided to do a 45 degree parking lot with a 7 foot grass strip between the sidewalk and US Hwy 27. He stated he believed FDOT had been very responsive in addressing this issue.

Commissioner Starter Long asked if the parking in front of the old Health Department would be changed.

County Manager Carlisle stated there was a sidewalk in front of the old Health Department and the parking would remain the same.

Chairman Ahern commented on the old sign in front of the EDC office. He stated it looked horrible since the hurricane and needed to be restored or replaced.

ON MOTION of Vice Chairman Stanley seconded by Commissioner Pryor the Board approved the FDOT lease for the location of 900 US Hwy 27 and authorized the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Board.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

Chairman Ahern commented on the lease on the property where the school signal was located.

County Manager Carlisle stated the corner where the signal was located would be deeded over to FDOT and the sidewalk would be turned to run behind the car stops between the Community Development Building and the parking lot. He stated this matter would come before the Board for a final decision.

12. Interim County Manager Employment Agreement with Joseph Helfenberger

Chairman Ahern stated each Commissioner had the opportunity to talk with Mr. Helfenberger at the last Commissioner's meeting. He stated the Board had voted to try to negotiate an employment agreement with Mr. Helfenberger for the Interim County Manager position. He stated he had met with Mr. Helfenberger after that meeting and had discussed several issues with him. He stated Mr. Helfenberger was currently working for the City of Archer and was being paid a mileage and housing allowance. He stated he lived in St. Cloud. He stated the numbers that were in the contract were \$500.00 for mileage and \$700.00 for housing. He stated he had discussed the matter with Attorney Pringle and had reviewed the salary ranges for other counties. He stated he had offered Mr. Helfenberger a salary of \$105,000.00 which he had declined. He stated the offer on the floor now was \$110,000.00.

Commissioner Storter Long asked what the salary range for the permanent position was being advertised as.

Chairman Ahern stated the range was \$100,000.00 - \$120,000.00.

Commissioner Storter Long stated if Mr. Helfenberger's salary was annualized it amounted to \$124,000.00 which was more than Mr. Carlisle was making.

Attorney Pringle stated the position was a temporary employment position and therefore did not require a competitive selection process. He stated the employment agreement was for a 6 month period of time and the Board would have an opportunity to extend that term. He stated there was also a termination provision without cause that authorized the Board to terminate the agreement at any time within the 6 month period. He stated the

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contract did include a salary of \$110,000.00 plus travel and housing allowances. He stated there were some employee benefits which were limited to the ones described in the agreement.

Chairman Ahern stated Mr. Helfenberger had already made flight arrangements and would be traveling 2 days to Switzerland for a family event.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if Mr. Helfenberger would only have the 2 days' vacation leave.

Chairman Ahern stated this was correct. He would not be accruing annual leave during the 6 months.

Attorney Pringle stated because this was a temporary employment position he had tried to limit the benefits. He stated the sick leave would accrue at the same rate as other employees. He stated the accrual would be on a calendar monthly basis. He stated vacation leave would not be paid and the leave would have to be preapproved by the Chairman. He stated any comp time taken would also require approval. He stated Mr. Helfenberger would be required to keep track of his hours; however, the contract did not prohibit the County from also keeping track of his hours. He stated this language was added to the latest version of the contract.

There was some discussion about the Commissioner's not having the latest version of the contract and the provision regarding the tracking of hours.

Attorney Pringle stated the performance evaluation would give full discretion to the Board of County Commissioners. He stated the use of the County vehicle was not to be used for personal reasons or travel to and from work. He stated Section 11 was the termination clause. He stated either party could terminate the contract by providing written notice at least 15 days prior to the other party.

Commissioner Storter Long referred to page 2 of the contract and questioned the provision for annual leave. She asked if the Chairman was authorized to give Mr. Helfenberger more vacation leave.

Attorney Pringle stated this was correct and the vacation leave would be unpaid.

Commissioner Storter Long stated she had been extremely impressed when she interviewed Mr. Helfenberger. She stated the only negative was the fact that Mr. Helfenberger never intends to move to Glades County. She stated he had made this very clear. She stated she felt this was the reason the salary range was so much higher.

Chairman Ahern commented on the inland counties having to compete with the counties on the East and West coasts.

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Commissioner Storter Long stated until the County was above the current poverty level the County would not have any better.

Commissioner Pryor asked why both housing and travel allowances were being made.

Chairman Ahern stated he had questioned the same. He stated Mr. Helfenberger currently lived in St. Cloud and would be driving to Moore Haven on Mondays and return home on Fridays. He stated he felt the mileage may be a bit high.

Commissioner Strenth expressed concern with furnishing housing and transportation and paying Mr. Helfenberger an outrageous salary. He asked why the Board was willing to dish out this kind of money now. He questioned why the Board had not done it earlier and kept Mr. Carlisle. He stated this was the first man out of the gate. He stated he felt Mr. Helfenberger's demands were pretty high and he did not agree with them at all.

Chairman Ahern stated he understood. He stated in fairness he couldn't expect Mr. Helfenberger to move here since it was an interim position. He stated the numbers were the same that the same City of Archer was paying Mr. Helfenberger.

Commissioner Strenth suggested holding off on making a decision regarding the contract. He stated he did not feel that the Board was holding the upper hand on this deal.

Commissioner Storter Long stated she felt the interim position should have been advertised anyway. She stated she believed Mr. Helfenberger was highly qualified; however, this did not mean that he was the right fit for the County. She stated in the interim he could not begin to step and pick up where Mr. Carlisle left off. She stated she agreed with Commission Strenth's concerns.

Commissioner Strenth stated the County still had Mr. Carlisle under contract for consulting so they could still operate until they could hire someone at a decent rate.

Vice Chairman Stanley asked what a decent rate would be for Commissioner Strenth.

Commissioner Strenth stated \$100,000.00 would be a decent rate with no allowances for housing or travel.

Chairman Ahern stated this was still an interim position.

Commissioner Strenth suggested offering Mr. Helfenberger \$100,000.00 and not paying any mileage or housing.

Commissioner Storter Long agreed.

Commissioner Stanley clarified that the housing and mileage allowances would not be paid forever. He stated if the Board did decide to hire Mr. Helfenberger full time in the future he would be hired at a negotiated contract price. He stated Mr. Helfenberger

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needed the housing allowance because he was living in another state working temporarily and still had household expenses for his home in Iowa. He stated he had indicated that he would sell the house if he could find full time employment.

Commissioner Storter Long stated Mr. Helfenberger had worked for the City of St. Cloud for 2 years and not sold his Iowa home. She stated he had indicated to her that he would not live in Glades County.

Vice Chairman Stanley suggested changing the advertisement to \$100,000.00 if that was all the Board was willing to pay.

Commissioner Strength stated the permanent position was being advertised with a salary range of \$100,000.00 - \$120,000.00.

Chairman Ahern stated the advertisement was for a permanent position. He stated felt the Board should have advertised for the interim position as well.

Commissioner Strength asked if Mr. Helfenberger was going to be willing to step in and do all that was required of him without the County having to hire additional staff. He stated Mrs. Whidden could only do so much.

Commissioner Storter Long stated this could be a real issue. She stated she had suggested hiring an Assistant County Manager years ago. She stated this person would also be in charge of researching and writing grants. She stated the position would earn its own salary and still cover a lot of the County Manager's salary.

Commissioner Strength stated the Board had been fortunate with Mr. Carlisle. He stated he liked Mr. Helfenberger but felt he was a little more than what the County needed at this time.

Chairman Ahern thanked the Commissioners for their opinions. He stated he knew more of what they wanted now.

Commissioner Storter Long stated Vice Chairman Stanley could assist Chairman Ahern with some of his responsibilities.

Chairman Ahern stated that had already been worked out and that Vice Chairman Stanley had been assisting him as needed. He stated he also spoke with Ms. Brown 2 – 3 times a day and appreciated both of them.

Commissioner Storter Long expressed concern with the interim County Manager being authorized to hire/fire Department Heads.

ON MOTION of Vice Chairman Stanley seconded by Commissioner Strength the Board agreed to offer Mr. Helfenberger \$100,000.00 with no allowances for travel or lodging;

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allow him until Friday at noon to respond; and if he declined, then to authorize the Chairman to advertise for an Interim County Manager.

Commissioner Storter Long stated there should be a deadline for his response so the position could be immediately advertised if he rejected the offer.

Attorney Pringle suggested Mr. Helfenberger should respond prior to the next Board meeting.

Chairman Ahern stated he would talk with Mr. Helfenberger again today.

Commissioner Strenth suggested allowing him 72 hours to respond to the offer.

Commissioner Storter Long suggested that the Board direct the Chairman to immediately advertise the position if the offer was declined. This was made a part of the motion. The deadline was set for Friday at noon.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

Attorney Pringle stated if Mr. Helfenberger did not accept the terms of the contract the Board would be without an interim County Manager. He stated Mr. Carlisle's employment agreement would expire on May 28th and the Board's next meeting was not until May 29th.

Commissioner Storter Long stated she believed Mr. Carlisle's contract gave the Board the right to negotiate more time.

Mr. Carlisle stated it did include this language but the contract would expire before the Board could extend it.

Attorney Pringle asked if the Board wished to ask Mr. Carlisle to extend his contract for another 30 days.

Mr. Carlisle stated he was willing to help the County any way he could.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Commissioner Strenth the Board amended the agenda to include a discussion regarding extending Mr. Carlisle's consultant contract.

Chairman Ahern called for public input. There was none.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

12A. Discuss Amending Mr. Carlisle's Consultant Contract

ON MOTION of Commissioner Pryor seconded by Commissioner Strenth the Board agreed to extend Mr. Carlisle's consultant contract for another 30 days and authorized Vice Chairman Stanley to contact Mr. Carlisle as needed.

Commissioner Storter Long suggested authorizing Vice Chairman Stanley to contact Mr. Carlisle as needed. This was made a part of the motion on the floor.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

13. GACM Assistance in hiring a County Manager

Gabrielle Ibiatorremendia, Human Resources Director, stated the Florida Association of County Manager's was a branch of the Florida Association of Counties. She stated they offered recruiting assistance and selection process assistance. She stated Charles Chapman, County Manager in Hendry County, was the President-elect for the Florida Association of County Managers. She stated he would be head of the selection committee. She stated this would be a 90 day process and she realized the Board had a June 1st deadline. She stated the Board would need to extend that date if they chose to go this route. She stated the costs of this assistance would be approximately \$5,000.00. She stated the Board could do a limited service. She explained the differences in the full process and the limited service process. She stated the limited services would take about 2 weeks versus the 90 days.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if an interview would be done.

Ms. Ibiatorremendia stated the selection committee would not do an interview with the candidate. She stated the committee would give an analysis report on each candidate.

Chairman Ahern suggested having this item on the next agenda.

Commissioner Storter Long commented on Pinellas County hiring a firm for \$29,000.00 to do their research for them. She stated \$2,500.00 was not a lot of money to have them do the research. She stated she felt the professional services would be well served.

Vice Chairman Stanley asked if any applications had been received.

Ms. Ibiatorremendia stated she had received 8 applications. She stated maybe half of these were qualified applicants.

Vice Chairman Stanley questioned the County spending money on this. He stated he did not see why the Board could not make the decision on the applicants.

Commissioner Storter Long stated maybe the Board should review the applicants first.

Chairman Ahern stated he did not feel comfortable making a decision today. He stated the Board could review the applications and made a decision at the next meeting.

Commissioner Pryor stated Mr. Chapman from Hendry County worked well with the Board and he believed if he knew of a candidate he would probably send them Glades County's way.

Chairman Ahern agreed.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if Mr. Helfenberger had applied for the Planning Director position.

Ms. Ibietatorremendia stated he had not.

Chairman Ahern asked that this item be placed on the next agenda for discussion.

14. Ortona Community Center Phone Line

Commissioner Storter Long, asked Shirley Nugent, President of the Ortona Community Association (OCA), and 18 year resident of Glades County to come forward and make the presentation to the Board regarding the need for a phone line at the Ortona Community Center.

Shirley Nugent, OCA President, thanked the Commissioners and the County for the beautiful facility that was located at Ortona. She stated it was a very useful building. She stated all of the Commissioners knew that the OCA building was very well taken care of and used on daily basis. She stated her concern was safety and having communications for emergencies. She stated there was no phone line to the building and most of the residents used their cell phones. She stated the cell phones would not operate inside the building due to weak signals in the area and the metal roofing. She stated the majority of the membership consisted of senior citizens, some having medical alert devices that did not work inside the building. She stated the radios the first responders used could not send or receive signal in the building either. She provided copies of a list of uses the building had. She stated the building was used as a library, a social center for arts, crafts, aerobic, and exercising, a voting center, a bingo hall (used weekly), a 2 week children's program during the summer, and a Red Cross shelter during emergencies. She stated the OCA held fundraisers to raise funds to support their association. She stated the OCA also supported the Moore Haven Scholarship Program and the Glades County Economic Development Council. She stated she had done some research on obtaining wifi and a possible phone line. She stated she had talked with AT & T and Verizon. She stated because of hot spots being tied to cell phone service they were no better than the service being received. She stated when a cell tower was built in Ortona this may be an option. She stated she also priced satellite internet through Hughes Net and the cost would be \$90.00 per month and included the leasing and maintenance of the equipment. She stated she had contacted also Freedom Wifi regarding internet services. She stated they had offered free service to OCA if a 75 – 80 foot tower could be placed in the west Ortona area. She stated she kept trying to contact them again and has had no response so far. She stated antennas over 50 foot required permitting per the Glades County Code. She stated she had contacted Century Link, however, they could not provide internet service or a DSL line to Ortona. She stated a regular phone line would be needed for the building

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because most of the OCA Board members and many Ortona residents used cell phones that were not in the local area code. She stated Century Link would install a phone line for an activation fee of \$99.00 and the monthly service fee would be \$43.21 plus tax per month. She stated to prevent misuse of the long distance service the phone would need to have call blocking and require a password for long distance phone calls. She stated she had found a phone that was PIN protected which would cost \$300.00. She respectfully asked the Board to consider helping the OCA become safer with a phone service in the center. She thanked Mrs. Patterson and Jessie Wallace for their assistance with researching this matter.

Commissioner Storter Long stated the cheapest option would be to install a land line. She stated she realized that the County did not pay for phone service in other communities but the buildings did have a phone line.

Commissioner Pryor asked if there had ever been a phone in the building.

Commissioner Storter Long stated there had not.

Commissioner Strenth stated Lakeport used to have a phone line. He questioned why the phones were pulled out of the buildings.

Commissioner Storter Long stated they were pulled because the County stopped paying for them. She stated the Board was working with the different communities on management agreements but had not got everyone on board. She stated the County would have to authorize the installation of the line since the building belongs to the County.

Chairman Ahern agreed that the County would have to authorize the installation and questioned if the OCA would pay the monthly bill.

Commissioner Storter Long suggested having the County install the line and then having the OCA pay for the monthly service.

Mrs. Nugent stated the OCA would purchase the telephone and pay the monthly service.

Commissioner Storter Long questioned the OCA paying for installation and the telephone and then having the County pay for the monthly service.

Mrs. Nugent stated Verizon did not have a strong signal in Ortona. She stated she had AT & T and could get a signal in certain places.

Commissioner Pryor asked why long distance would be needed if the phone was going to be used for 911 only.

Mrs. Nugent stated the long distance was needed because they would need to contact the family if something happened to someone while at the building.

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Commissioner Strenth suggested allowing the OCA to put in whatever they could afford.

Commissioner Storter Long suggested that the County pay for the installation of the line and then OCA pay for the monthly fee.

Vice Chairman Stanley stated he had no problem paying for the phone and installation and then having the OCA pay the monthly fee.

Commissioner Strenth and Commissioner Pryor both agreed.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Strenth seconded by Vice Chairman Stanley the Board authorized the County to pay for the installation of a phone line at the Ortona Community Association building so that the OCA could purchase a telephone and pay for the monthly service.

Mrs. Nugent clarified that the County would pay for the installation and the OCA would purchase the telephone and pay for the monthly service.

Chairman Ahern stated this was correct.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

Sheriff Hardin asked that everyone stand for a moment of silence for the Deputy who was killed in the line of duty in Highlands County.

Joe Pepe, Health Department, stated he would be presenting the “Stop the Bleed” program to the School Board tomorrow. He stated the kits would include guaze, gloves, scissors, blood clotting agents, tourniquets, etc. He stated the single largest cause of death in a mass casualty event was the loss of blood. He stated more of the kits had been ordered for the school, and the kits would be placed at any location which housed a defibrillator, County buildings, and with law enforcement. He stated he had dropped of a few additional portable ventilators to Mr. Jones so the County now had a total of 3 ventilators that were battery powered. He stated Mr. Jones had been doing a great job in working with the Health Department to ensure that the EMS staff were fully capable of sustaining life as much as possible during long transports.

Vice Chairman Stanley stated he had read an article yesterday that indicated that Yellow Fever was going to be worse than the Zika outbreak this year.

Mr. Pepe stated once the warm weather wrapped up there would be the opportunity for these seasonal type of events to occur. He stated he would be monitoring these things and there was currently no reason for concern.

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Vice Chairman Stanley stated there was a massive outbreak in Brazil according to the article.

COUNTY MANAGER & DEPARTMENT HEADS

Bob Jones, Public Safety Director, stated he had met with RG Towers and CCI last Thursday regarding the relocation of the pager system for the West district. He stated this project would probably come to fruition the first part of June. He stated there had been some issues with the generator at the Muse Community Center during the storm last year. He stated the County had received a grant to put a transfer switch and a pad at Ortona. He stated the old generator from the Courthouse would be moved to Ortona and the old generator from the Health Department would be moved to Muse. He stated the expense to move these 2 generators should be minor. He stated a roof over maybe needed in Ortona but he would keep the Board informed.

Chairman Ahern stated he was glad to see this issue being addressed.

Mr. Jones stated anchoring of the generator was part of the requirements in the grant. He stated both generators had been serviced and he would move forward on getting them relocated. He commented on Glades County competing with the coastal counties for employees. He stated his department had recently lost an employee and it had been very difficult to get someone to apply. He stated the person in the back of the ambulance would make the difference between life and death. He stated the County needed to start planning now for the replacement of several employees that would be leaving or retiring within the next few years.

Chairman Ahern stated it was definitely something the Board needed to start looking at.

Mr. Jones stated the new paramedics would take 2 – 3 years to get to the level that Glades County's paramedics were already at. He stated this was because his paramedics had been trained in-house. He commented on the need for the remount of one of his trucks.

Chairman Ahern asked that Mr. Jones give an update on the surveillance system that was being installed at the landfill.

Mr. Jones stated the surveillance system had been ordered. He stated he had not received the bid as of this morning. He stated there would be 4 cameras located on the property. He stated the cost would be covered under landfill monies.

Chairman Ahern stated Clerk (Finance) Staff had discovered a problem at the landfill which created the need for the cameras and updated computer programs.

Mr. Jones stated the cameras should be in within the next week or two.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if the generators had been serviced.

Mr. Jones stated they would each be completely serviced.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

Attorney Pringle thanked the Board for their support and prayers during the recent loss of his mother.

PUBLIC INPUT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Diane Cianfrani, resident of Muse, stated it had been 8 months since Hurricane Irma destroyed a lot of properties within Glades County. She stated she drove by the firehouse in Muse quite often. She stated there had been rumors that the firehouse would be torn down or possibly moved. She stated she had heard that the building was not worth repairing. She questioned what was going to happen with the firehouse. She stated the outcome would have an impact on the homeowners insurance.

Chairman Ahern stated the building had been turned in on the insurance claims.

County Manager Carlisle stated the building had been severely damaged. He stated the building could not be restored. He stated there was an application in for mitigation money to rebuild the station. He stated it would be the Board's decision on where and how the building would be rebuilt. He stated there had been some conversations about building a joint station behind the West Glades Elementary School so that Muse and the Pollywog area could be adequately serviced. He stated the station would be for Fire and EMS. He stated if the County did not get the mitigation grant he had suggested taking the existing building down and putting up a steel building which would house the fire truck but could also be used for different uses in the future if needed.

Commissioner Storter Long asked that this item be placed on the agenda for discussion. She stated there were one cent funds that were available for funding the project.

Mr. Jones stated he would not be present at the next meeting.

Chairman Ahern asked Mrs. Patterson to have a report regarding the one cent funds available at the next meeting.

Vice Chairman Stanley asked when Mr. Carlisle would know if the County received the mitigation funds.

Mr. Carlisle stated it could be 6 months to a year.

COMMISSIONERS ITEMS AND COMMENTS

Commissioner Storter Long failed to disclose that she had a lease with the owners of the Oaks in the Slough subdivision. She stated the lease was not on the same property that was voted on today and she did not believe there would be any conflict. She asked if the Department Heads were working on the annual reports for the upcoming budget workshops. She asked if the dates had been set.

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Ms. Brown stated the dates had not yet been set. She asked if the Board had any preferences. She stated the workshops were generally held near the end of June and one in July.

Commissioner Storter Long questioned implementing purchasing freezes.

Mr. Carlisle stated this was usually done in September.

Commissioner Storter Long stated the Board had done them before the budget workshops in the past.

Ms. Brown stated the freezes were normally done in September or a bit earlier.

Commissioner Storter Long stated one of the OCA Board members also worked for the EMS Department and was a volunteer fireman. She stated none of his cell phones or radios worked in the building. She thanked the Board for moving forward with the installation of a phone line at the OCA building.

Commissioner Pryor had no comments.

Commissioner Strenth stated the Lakeport Community Association had held a membership drive barbbque recently. He stated 40 new members had signed up. He stated the Lakeport Community Association would meet again tonight and he invited everyone to attend. He stated he continued to work with staff regarding the compost plant in Brighton.

Chairman Ahern stated he had rode down to the compost plant prior to the barbbque. He stated the building was in sad shape.

Vice Chairman Stanley commented on a meeting he had attended yesterday with FHREO. He stated the strategic plan had been published. He stated Representative Albritton had made a presentation about pushing development into the smaller counties. He stated this would be hard to do with no housing or workforce. He stated Representative Albritton was asking for suggestions on addressing these issues. He stated the new reservoir plan had been put out by the Corps of Engineers. He stated the new plan was to build the reservoir on the north side of the road from the Kissimmee River down to the Indian Prairie Canal. He stated the foot print was 12,500 acres. He stated he had asked how many acres would need to be purchased. He stated approximately 8,500 acres would have to be purchased. He stated he had commented at the end of the meeting and informed the Corps that they would be buying out the Pearce families properties. He stated these properties had been passed down for generations. He stated the plan would have to be finalized. He stated the Board needed to fight this proposed plan.

Chairman Ahern stated Glades Youth Livestock had purchased a book for each of the 567 students at West Glades Elementary for their Summer Reading Program. He stated

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there were 2 people talking to County staff regarding the motel property. He stated he would be talking with Attorney Pringle this afternoon about moving forward with this matter. He stated there was 500 inmates at the jail facility as of this morning. He stated there were a lot of inmates at the County Jail that were from GEO. He stated he had discussed this issue with Major Henson and they would be working with GEO to get the paperwork filled out properly. He stated GEO now had a new Warden. He asked that Mr. Randolph get with Mr. Carlisle later this afternoon regarding the bid for the fuel tank.

Ms. Brown asked the Commissioners if they wanted to set a salary range on the interim County Manager position if the Board had to advertise.

Commissioner Storter Long suggested \$100,000.00.

Commissioner Strenth stated he felt the Board should set a range of \$90,000.00 - \$100,000.00.

Ms. Ibiattatorremendia stated she believed the range should be \$80,000.00 - \$100,000.00.

The Board agreed to set the range at \$80,000.00 - \$100,000.00.

ADJOURN

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 11:16 a.m.

John Ahern, Chairman

ATTEST:

Sandra H. Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court

Approved: July 10, 2018

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

