

MINUTES OF THE GLADES COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 28, 2019 AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM, GLADES COUNTY COURTHOUSE,  
MOORE HAVEN, FLORIDA

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The Glades County Board of County Commissioners met on Tuesday, May 28, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. with the following Commissioners present:

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

Others present:

Julie Mann Braddock, Administrative Secretary  
Sandra H. Brown, Clerk of Court  
Martin Murphy, County Manager  
Tiffany Patterson, Finance Director  
Connie Vanassche, CAS Governmental Services  
Gabrielle Ibietatorremendia, Human Resources Director  
Aletris Farnam, Supervisor of Elections  
Jack Lundy, County Court Judge  
David Hardin, Glades County Sheriff  
Archie Branch, Public Works Director  
Chris Felker, Lake Okeechobee News  
8 citizens

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

**PRAYER**

Vice Chairman Pryor gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE**

Commissioner Ahern led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

County Manager Murphy requested that approval of a Letter of Support from the Lake O Coalition regarding water issues and an invitation to the Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart and the Honorable Alcee Hastings be added to the Business Agenda.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Ahern seconded by Commissioner Strenth the Board amended the agenda to include the above stated items.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

**PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS**

**1. Dominion Voting**

Mark Beckstrom, Regional Sales Representative for Dominion Voting, stated he had worked with and supported Glades County since 1985. He stated he had worked with former Supervisor of Elections, Holly Whidden, for a number of years. He stated he had worked with Mrs. Farnam since she had taken office. He stated Dominion Voting did a lot of full service work, such as ballot layout and programming, along with support. He stated depending on the metrics used, Dominion Voting was the largest, or second largest voting system company in the United States. He stated there were 6 offices distributed across the country and representatives could be reached at any time. He stated the experiences of 4 major stakeholders were taken into account when designing the machines. He stated all of their systems were all-in-one. He gave an overview of the voting systems that Dominion Voting offered and a demonstration of how the Image Cast Evolution (ICE) device worked. He stated Dominion Voting had perfected the managed services program. He stated all of the systems he had sold in Florida utilized this service. He explained that this was method that had been developed to help jurisdictions afford voting systems. He stated they offered the counties a bundled rate for services and support and spread the payments out over a 6 – 8 year period. He stated if a new system came out in 4 years and the County decided they wished to have it, the old system could be pulled out and the new installed. He stated this eliminated the obsolescence issue and kept the vendor involved.

Chairman Stanley asked how many other companies provided voting systems in Florida.

Mr. Beckstrom stated there were 5 federally certified companies, of which, 2 were in Florida.

Chairman Stanley asked what an approximate yearly cost would be for the voting system that had been demonstrated.

Mrs. Farnam stated she had provided the cost to the Commissioners.

Mr. Beckstrom stated the machines would be leased to the County and replaced as needed. He stated the equipment could be bought out; however, he cautioned the Board about buying the equipment out right.

Sandra H. Brown, Clerk of Court, suggested that the Board make sure Dominion Voting was a sole source provider before making the purchase.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

There were none.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- 2. County Warrants (Exhibit A)  
General Fund: 85654 – 85738**

**ACH Payments: 147 – 152**  
**Tourism Development Council: 1076**  
**Intergovernmental Radio: 10384**  
**E911 Maintenance Grant: 134**  
**SHIP: 1810 - 1812**

**3. Approved the minutes of the April 22, 2019 Regular Meeting**

ON MOTION of Vice Chairman Pryor seconded by Commissioner Ahern 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 no public input.

**BUSINESS AGENDA**

**4. Encumbrance of SHIP Funds**

County Manager Murphy stated this encumbrance would be for \$15,000.00 and would be used as Down Payment Assistance.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Ahern seconded by Commissioner Strenth the Board approved the encumbrance of SHIP funds in an amount up to \$15,000.00 for Applicant 2019-DPA-4-Jones (Down Payment Assistance) and authorized the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Board.

Motion carried by 5 - 0 vote.

**5. Port LaBelle Utility Systems – Citizens’ Advisory Board Re-Appointment**

County Manager Murphy stated the Board had appointed Tom Gaskins, III, to the Port LaBelle Utility Systems – Citizens’ Advisory Board in November 2017. He stated Mr. Gaskins’ term would expire on June 30, 2019. He stated the new term would begin July 1, 2019 and end June 30, 2021.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Vice Chairman Pryor the Board approved the re-appointment of Tom Gaskins, III to the Port LaBelle Utility Systems - Citizens’ Advisory Board for a 2 year term beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2021 and authorized the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Board.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

**6. Request for purchase (S14-42-32-001-0000-0170)**

County Manager Murphy stated the Board had declared this property surplus to County need on March 25, 2019. He stated Mr. Tony Patrick was interested in entering into a private sale of the property. He stated the lot was unbuildable and located adjacent to

Mr. Patrick's property. He stated the Board had offered the lot to Mr. Patrick at the sales price of \$4,582.00. He stated Mr. Patrick had counter-offered with an amount of \$1,700.00. He asked the Board for direction.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Commissioner Ahern the Board approved Tony Patrick's offer in the amount of \$1,700.00 for the purchase of County owned surplus property (Parcel ID# S14-42-32-001-0000-0170) and authorized the Chairman to sign all necessary documents to complete the sale.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

**7. Schedule 2019-2020 Budget Workshops**

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Commissioner Pryor the Board scheduled the 2019-2020 Budget Workshops for June 18, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. and July 9, 2019 immediately following the regular Commission meeting.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

**8. Letter (Added to the Agenda by amendment)**

County Manager Murphy stated that during the joint meeting held on May 7, 2019 with Hendry, Martin, Okeechobee, Palm Beach, and Glades Counties there had been a discussion regarding a the need for a joint effort concerning Lake Okeechobee and water resource matters. He stated it was the consensus of the boards to draft a letter of concern to the Army Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District. He presented a draft letter to the Board along with an invitation to several Congressmen.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Commissioner Ahern the Board approved the Letter of Concern to the Army Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District along with the invitation to the Congressmen for all of the districts represented.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

**CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS**

Sandra H. Brown, Clerk of Court, stated the auditors had questioned whether or not the County paid charged sales tax on County buildings that were being leased or rented. She stated the issue had been forward to Attorney Pringle for review.

Aletris Farnam, Supervisor of Elections, stated the Board would need to start thinking about the language for the one cent sales tax referendum. She stated she would need the language for the ballots at least 6 months prior to the general election. She advised the Board that the seminar for the Canvassing Board members would be held in October this year.

Gabrielle Ibietatorremendia, Human Resources Director, stated this year's annual Employee Health Fair would be held in July. She stated she and County Manager Murphy

had met with a representative from Washington National today regarding supplemental insurance coverage. She stated Board approval of this additional insurance was not required since a contract would not be signed. She stated she would be meeting with Tiffany Patterson, Finance Director, to discuss the details. She stated she had received a couple of complaints about the AllState insurance and had been asked to cancel coverage by several employees.

Ms. Brown stated when the AllState contract had been signed the Board had directed that no other payroll deductions would be made. She stated this new coverage would have to come before the Board if they were requesting pay roll deduction of the premiums.

Chairman Stanley asked if Mr. Branch had found out who owned the boat ramp at the Indian Prairie Canal.

Mr. Branch stated the same question had been asked back in 1987/1988 and had never been answered. He stated he had spoken with Mr. Brown today and he had indicated that if the County mowed and maintained the right of way, it should be repairing and maintaining the ramp. He stated he had put money into his budget for the repairs. He stated he could patch the ramp in the interim.

Connie Vanassche, CAS Governmental Services, stated the legislative committee weeks had been scheduled for September 16 – 20, 2019; 2 weeks in October; 2 weeks in November; 1 week in December; and the next session would begin January 14, 2020. She stated she was continuing to work on the grant with DEP for the waste water project. She stated she was working with staff to prepare the first reimbursement request for the County. She stated over 3,000 bills had been processed for consideration this year and only 194 had passed. She stated a lot of the budget had been allocated to recovery efforts in the Panhandle after Hurricane Michael.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

There was no discussion.

**COUNTY MANAGER**

County Manager Murphy stated a “No Permit Required” letter had been issued for the construction of the Detention Center so “state only” mitigation credits were required to relieve the County of the conservation easement. He stated Desmond Duke, representative for Panther Island Mitigation Bank had informed him that “state only” mitigation credits would cost approximately \$75,000.00 per credit. He stated the 7.4 credits that would be needed would cost approximately \$590,000.00. He stated Mr. Duke had indicated that, while the bank did not normally offer installment payment arrangements, they may consider it for the County, but it would be for no more than a 2 year term. He stated Mr. Duke did state that if the County would be making a lump sum payment, he may be able to negotiate a better price for the credits. He reminded the Board that the purchase of credits would release the County from the conservation easement and eliminate future monitoring and the perpetual vegetation maintenance;

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however, it would not allow the County to dredge, fill, or develop the wetlands area. He stated this would require additional permits.

Vice Chairman Pryor asked if the wetlands could be mowed.

County Manager Murphy stated he had spoken with the Water Management District about mowing the area. He stated he believed the property could be mowed.

Mr. Branch suggested reviewing the original conservation easement language. He stated the wetland area where the prison is located was being mowed twice a year and burnt once a year.

County Manager Murphy stated the Water Management District had been patient so far; he stated the County had been out of compliance for quite some time. He stated he had received the bids to do the plantings. He stated the lowest of the bids was \$42,000.00 and the highest had been \$55,700.00. He stated unless the Board decided something else, he would probably award the bid to the lowest bidder and try to get compliance.

Commissioner Storter Long suggested mowing once now and then doing the planting.

It was the consensus of the Board to mow the wetlands at the Training Center.

County Manager Murphy stated the County Manager for Hendry County had contacted him about their transportation services. He stated Hendry County had put out their own RFP for the services that Good Wheels was currently providing. He stated Hendry County's County Manager had asked if the Board was interested in holding a joint meeting so that HRTPO could present the options to both counties.

Commissioner Storter Long commented on the most recent Transportation Disadvantaged meeting she had attended. She stated the Board was chaired by Commissioner Byrd (of Hendry County) and some of the priorities of the TD Board and the provider (Good Wheels) were being discussed. She stated if cuts needed to be made they needed to be made from recreational transportation services and not medical transportation services. She stated she was not really interested in working with Hendry County on this issue.

Commissioner Ahern stated he had heard numerous complaints about Good Wheels.

Chairman Stanley suggested meeting with the HRTPO first and then with Hendry County. It was the consensus of the Board to do this.

County Manager Murphy advised the Board that SB 7098 was approved by the Governor and would go into effect as of July 1<sup>st</sup>. He stated this bill increased the death benefit for Law Enforcement, Correction Officers, Probation Officers, and Fire Fighters to \$75,000.00; for intentional deaths the benefit was increased to \$225,000.00. He stated this increase would raise the County's premium by approximately \$74.00. He stated

another new law that provided benefits to qualifying full-time employed and part-time employed fire fighters who received a diagnosis of specified cancers. He stated a one-time payment of \$25,000.00 would be paid. He stated staff had priced a Myers 2-HP pump for the Muse Fire Station. He stated this would save the County \$2,745.00.

Commissioner Storter Long asked what the status of the Muse fire station was.

Commissioner Ahern stated he had contacted the contractor and he had indicated that the project should be completed by mid-June.

County Manager Murphy stated he would be attending the Florida City/County Manager's Conference in Orlando beginning tomorrow. He stated he would be available by telephone, if needed. He stated a County Coalition had been scheduled for June 7, 2019. He stated the new Executive Director of the South Florida Water Management District would be holding a Meet & Greet on July 30<sup>th</sup> at the Water Management District's headquarters.

Commissioner Storter Long asked how many managers that managed County buildings submitted financial reports to County Manager Murphy.

County Manager Murphy stated he was not sure that he had seen any.

Commissioner Storter Long requested that financial statements be requested from all organizations that use County owned buildings and fire departments.

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

There was none.

#### **COMMISSIONERS ITEMS AND COMMENTS**

Commissioner Storter Long requested that financial statements be requested from all organizations that use County owned buildings and fire departments. She commented on the palmettos being cleared out around the Pollywog Crossover Fire Station. She asked County Manager Murphy to obtain a copy of the lease with Lykes Bros., Inc. for this property. She commented on the voting system presentation that was made tonight and the possibility of changing the polling places within the County.

Vice Chairman Pryor had no comments.

Commissioner Strenth commented on the code enforcement clean-up that had been done in Palmdale.

Commissioner Ahern stated the Florida Wildlife Commission's environmental section had been working with the County's Code Enforcement on some different locations. He stated there was a place in Palmdale, at Main's Corner, and several places on each end of town. He stated there were tires that needed to be removed. He stated he and Attorney Pringle had met after the last meeting to review the contract for the hotel. He stated the contract

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was written a lot differently than what had been discussed. He reminded everyone of the meeting with Congressman Mast on Friday at 11:00 a.m.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if the agenda for the joint meeting with Hendry County could also include a discussion regarding how they were moving forward with the modular home issues in Port LaBelle Unit 102.

Chairman Stanley invited everyone to attend the Buckhead Ridge Homeowners' Association meeting on Thursday at 6:30 p.m. He commented on attending FAC's next level of training for County Commissioners this past week. He stated one of the topics at the training was cannabis. He stated the Secretary of Agriculture was encouraging growth of the hemp industry. He stated the hemp could be used to make rope and clothing. He stated this industry would help the citrus growers who were going out of business due to recent hurricanes.

**ADJOURN**

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Commissioner Ahern the Board moved to adjourn the meeting.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Stanley adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

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Timothy Stanley, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Sandra H. Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court

Approved: July 22, 2019

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