

MINUTES OF THE GLADES COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 29, 2018 AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM, GLADES COUNTY COURTHOUSE,  
MOORE HAVEN, FLORIDA

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The Glades County Board of County Commissioners met on Tuesday, May 29, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. with the following Commissioners present:

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

Others present:

Julie Mann Braddock, Administrative Secretary  
Tiffany Patterson, Finance Director  
Susan Whidden, Administrative Assistant – County Manager's Office  
Joe Helfenberger, Interim County Manager  
Paul Carlisle, Consultant  
David Hardin, Glades County Sheriff  
Aletris Farnam, Supervisor of Elections  
Gabrielle Ibietatorremendia, Human Resources Director  
All MHHS Honor Roll Students  
Teachers of the Year  
Tommy Hare  
Tommy Perry  
Scott Bass  
Jerry Randolph, Road Superintendent  
Chris Felker, Okeechobee News  
7 citizens

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

**PRAYER**

Brooks Bass gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE**

Arya Lennon led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS**

**1. Recognition of Teacher of the Year and Graduating Honor Students**

The Board presented the awards for Teacher of the Year.

Moore Haven Middle High School Teacher of the Year – Tommy Hare

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Moore Haven Elementary School Teacher of the Year - Jaclyne Lundy Pollard  
West Glades Elementary School Teacher of the Year – Kimber Smith  
Pemayetv Emahakv Charter Element School Teacher of the Year – Joy Prescott  
Mrs. Prescott was also in the top 5 candidates for the State Teacher of the Year. The winner will be announced in July.  
Pemayetv Emahakv Charter Middle School Teacher of the Year – Mindy Wells

Tommy Hare presented the awards to the following Honor Roll Students:

Adulvar S. Gary Jr.  
Abigail M. Hogan  
Taiomi Dixon  
Tyler B. McDuffie  
Mallory R. Thomas  
Maria M. Rodas  
Abraham Pereira  
Devyn L. Arnold  
Oscar Galvin Jr.  
Billy G. Rednour  
Alexis N. Stoppiello  
Tonoy L. Patrick  
Susan E. Longwell  
Nathaniel P. Harris  
Esteban A. Cepero  
Kira J. Beck  
Gesselle Velasquez  
Angell Rodriguez Zamarripa  
Rosemary Aragus  
Norma P. Rico  
Kimberly J. Hogan  
Sidney L. Platt  
Regina Roblero  
Rachel H. Lowman  
Cesar A. Balboa  
Tiffany Cabrera  
Araya M. Lennon  
Brianna L. Burress  
John E. Cox III  
Rylee M. Palladino  
Brooks R. Bass  
Amber M. Summerall  
Maricela A. Rubio

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

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

Paul Carlisle, Consultant, stated this application consisted of 60.51 acres and the applicant was requesting a change from Agriculture/Open to Industrial. He stated the

portion of the property located in Hendry County had already been approved by the Hendry County Board of County Commissioners and had been submitted to the Department of Economic Opportunity and there had been no comments. He stated the surrounding land uses for the property were Open Use Agriculture and Open Use Flood Plain. He stated the adjacent property was designated as Open Use Agriculture. He stated this portion of the property that was located in Glades County was an extension of the proposed Hendry County development. He stated the property was located 1.8 miles east of Flag Hole Road. He stated the development would have necessary infrastructure and public services available. He stated potable water would be provided by South Shore Water Association. He stated there was a 1900 acre mixed use development adjacent to the property as well. He stated staff had reviewed the application and found it to be consistent. He asked that the Board consider submitting the application to the Department of Economic Opportunity for comment. He asked that the staff report and any comments made today be made a part of the record. He stated tonight's hearing had been duly advertised.

Summer Foster, Johnson Prewitt, introduced Chris Mclevoy, who also worked on this application. She stated she would be happy to answer any questions the Board may have.

Vice Chairman Stanley asked what the property owners planned on doing with the property.

Ms. Foster stated she was not sure, only that they were planning for the future.

Chairman Ahern called for public comment. There was none.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Pryor seconded by Commissioner Starter Long the Board approved Case Number COMP 18-02LS and recommended approval of the transmittal to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and other State departments for review based on the findings and analysis in the staff report dated April 26, 2018 and findings presented at the public hearing.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- 3. County Warrants (Exhibit A )  
General Fund: 82047 – 82050 and 83287 - 83401  
ACH Payments : 017 – 022  
Buckhead Ridge Utility : 236  
Intergovernmental Radio: 10353  
SHIP: 1717 - 1718**
- 4. Approve Minutes of the April 5, 2018 Joint Meeting**
- 5. Approved Minutes of the April 23, 2018 Regular Meeting**

ON MOTION of Vice Chairman Stanley seconded by Commissioner Strenth 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)

One person had signed up and will be called later in the meeting.

**BUSINESS AGENDA**

**6. Resolution 2018- Burn Ban Release**

Chairman Ahern read the title of the Resolution into the record.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Commissioner Pryor the Board adopted Glades County Resolution No. 2018-4, terminating/cancelling the burn ban imposed by Resolution No. 2018-4 and determined that emergency conditions no longer existed that required a ban on outdoor burning.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

**7. Drug-Free Workplace Program**

ON MOTION of Vice Chairman Stanley seconded by Commissioner Storter Long the Board approved the application for the Drug-Free Workplace program and authorized the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Board.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

**8. Safety Program**

ON MOTION of Commissioner Pryor seconded by Commissioner Storter Long the Board approved the application for the Safety Premium Credit Program and authorized the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Board.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

**9. Southwest Florida Workforce Development Board, Inc. 2018-2019 Fiscal Year Budget**

Commissioner Storter Long asked if anyone on the Board was the representative for the Southwest Florida Workforce Development Board.

Vice Chairman Stanley stated it was not a Board member but a citizen.

ON MOTION of Vice Chairman Stanley seconded by Commissioner Strenth the Board approved the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year Budget for the Southwest Florida Workforce Development Board, Inc.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

**10. RFP #06-2018 Hotel Site**

Chairman Ahern stated at the Board's special meeting held last Tuesday several changes had been made to the RFP. He asked if there were any further changes or discussion at this time. He stated several dates needed to be filled in on the RFP.

Commissioner Storter Long suggested making Mr. Helfenberger the contact person for the RFP.

Chairman Ahern introduced Mr. Joe Helfenberger as the County's new Interim County Manager. He stated he was glad to have Mr. Helfenberger on board. He agreed that Mr. Helfenberger should be the contact person on the RFP. He stated he had spoken with Attorney Pringle this morning and some of the information that was being requested in the RFP was pretty in depth. He stated he wanted to make sure the responders had enough time to put their proposals together. He suggested the middle of July.

Commissioner Storter Long asked why a special meeting had been held if the Board was going to delay the RFP.

Chairman Ahern stated it was a lot of information to compile. He suggested allowing one month to a month and a half to respond. He stated the Board had a meeting on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. He suggested having the deadline set for Wednesday, July 18<sup>th</sup>. He stated staff would be able to review them prior to the meeting.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Commissioner Pryor the Board approved RFP #06-2018; authorized County Staff to publish; set a closing date June 29, 2018 for questions; set a deadline of Wednesday, July 18, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. to receive proposals; and named Joe Helfenberger, County Manager, as the contact person.

Vice Chairman Stanley stated there was also a line in the RFP that called for a date for the deadline for questions.

Chairman Ahern suggested giving them until the end of June.

Commissioner Strenth stated they could be given the July 18<sup>th</sup> date. He stated he did not see where it would matter.

Vice Chairman Stanley agreed that the end of June would be better.

Chairman Ahern stated questions would be due by June 29<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Storter Long amended her motion on the floor to include the cut-off date for questions (June 29<sup>th</sup>) and Commissioner Pryor amended his second.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

**11. Glades County Property on Andrea Lane**

Vice Chairman Stanley stated the County currently owned the property located on Andrea Lane in Buckhead Ridge. He stated it was originally a developed trailer park. He stated the original owner had gone bankrupt. He stated a tax deed had been purchased and the case had eventually gone to court. He stated the court had given the sewer plant to the Okeechobee Utilities Authority (OUA) because they were the operating utility plant in the area. He stated the court had given the land to Glades County. He stated the OUA was now doing improvements on the plant and had applied for a grant. He stated the grant required that the property be titled to them. He stated the homes located south of Lissie Lane were already on the sewer system. He stated this grant would enable the OUA to put all of the houses on the north side of Lissie Lane on the sewer system. He recommended that the County deed the property to the OUA.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Vice Chairman Stanley the Board approved deeding Parcel Number S36-38-34-016-000B-0110 that was currently owned by Glades County to the Okeechobee Utilities Authority and authorized the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Board.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

**12. Discussion on One Cent Funds**

Chairman Ahern stated he had asked that Tiffany Patterson, Finance Director, give a report on the one cent funds.

Mrs. Patterson stated the one cent fund currently had approximately \$1.2 million in undesignated funds. She stated there were a few projects outstanding, some of which the Board could probably unencumber since the projects had been out for over a year with no progress. She reminded the Board that this fund was the main capital outlay account that all of the County's reimbursable grants were run through.

Vice Chairman Stanley questioned the remaining balance in the amount of \$469,406.00. He asked if this was the balance left if all of the funds that were encumbered were actually spent.

Mrs. Patterson stated this was the balance left out of the original encumbrance. She stated these were funds that had not been spent or released.

Vice Chairman Stanley suggested going through the list to figure out which projects would not be completed and funds that would no longer be encumbered before spending more. He asked why the year 17/18 had only brought in \$208,000.00 and the prior year had brought in \$472,000.00.

Mrs. Patterson explained the figures shown for 16/17 reflected a full year, whereas 17/18 was a partial year so far.

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Commissioner Storter Long asked if Mrs. Patterson had dates of completion for some of the projects.

Mrs. Patterson stated she did not but would research the projects and bring the information back to the Board.

Commissioner Storter Long questioned the \$215,000.00 for the CDBG grant for the Loves Travel Center. She asked if these funds had been received.

Mr. Carlisle stated the funds had been received.

Mrs. Patterson stated not all of the project was covered by the grant; however, the County did get excess costs given back. She stated these were some funds that could be unencumbered.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if the project at Harney Pond had been completed.

Mrs. Patterson stated the full amount encumbered had been expended and the project was complete.

Vice Chairman Stanley questioned \$48,000.00 being encumbered for the Ortona Cemetery.

Mrs. Patterson stated these funds had been encumbered for improvements to the pavilion. She stated only \$2,550.00 was left encumbered on this project.

Commissioner Storter Long asked how much was designated for the improvements.

Mrs. Patterson stated the original amount designated was \$48,534.00 and then added an additional \$5,000.00. She stated the balance remaining was \$2515.00 and all other funds had been expended.

Commissioner Storter Long stated the Board needed Mrs. Patterson to determine what jobs had been completed and if any funds were left that were encumbered that could be unencumbered. She asked if funds were actually transferred out of this account or if staff knew the funds were in the bank and covered. She asked what the process was to expend funds.

Mrs. Patterson stated the funds were in the bank. She stated if the project was a capital outlay project it was coded to a separate fund so she knew what amount was designated as capital funds. She stated those funds were then transferred to the General Fund in order to cut a check. She stated a schedule is kept when administering the grants so that she knew what needed to be transferred and when.

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Chairman Ahern asked Mrs. Patterson to do some research on the projects that were out and report back to the Board.

Chairman Ahern asked if there was any further questions or discussion regarding the one cent funds.

Commissioner Storter Long stated although it was not specifically on the agenda, she would like to discuss the needs in Muse for a fire department. She asked that the discussion regarding one cent funds be tabled until Bob Jones could be present and a discussion regarding the Muse fire department could be had.

Chairman Ahern stated he had not heard from the person he had asked to give him quotes on a steel building at Muse.

Commissioner Storter Long stated until the Board knew exactly what funds were no longer encumbered and the total unencumbered it really could not move forward. She stated she did not know how many calls for fire had been made in the Muse area and realized there was mutual aid provided by Hendry County.

Chairman Ahern called for public comment. He stated Constance Lyle had signed up to address this matter.

Constance Lyle, resident of Muse, stated she was very interested to know the current status and plans for the fire house in Muse. She asked if a survey had been done on the fire house property. She asked about the engineering cost that would be involved. She expressed concern with the response timing if the fire house was moved to a different location. She asked who the main contact for inquiries about this project.

Chairman Ahern stated this issue had been discussed several times at previous meetings. He stated the one cent funds could possibly be a source of funding for the fire house. He stated he had talked with Mr. Jones about the possibility of a fire and EMS station near the Elementary School in Muse. He stated the extra distance would be 4 – 5 miles. He stated he had contacted a contractor for a price on a new building so that the cost could be included in this year's budget.

Mrs. Lyle asked if there was insurance on the building.

Gabrielle Ibiatorremendia, Human Resources Director, stated insurance had covered some of the damage to the building; however, the building had been deemed a total loss. She stated the County had received some funds but not enough to replace the entire building. She stated she was working with the State regarding mitigation to help with replacing the building.

Chairman Ahern stated the County could use the insurance money and the one cent fund was a source of funding.



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Mrs. Lyle stated the community was interested in helping and would like to work with the County on this project.

Commissioner Storter Long asked Mrs. Patterson to get the vouchers from the insurance company and how the funds were designated.

Chairman Ahern stated Mr. Carlisle and Mr. Randolph had been looking at bids for restrooms at Muse, Ortona, and Lakeport.

Mrs. Lyle asked who had condemned the building at Muse.

Commissioner Pryor stated the insurance company had made the determination that the building was a total loss.

Mr. Carlisle stated the building was full of mold and the electric had been inundated with water after the roof was ripped off. He stated the building was not safe to stay in.

Commissioner Storter Long pointed out that time was of the essence. She stated there were a lot more calls for the ambulance than there were for the fire truck. She stated the first people to arrive in Muse were usually from LaBelle. She stated she did not believe where the building was located would help much with coverage. She stated she was not sure fire and ambulance should be housed together in that area.

Commissioner Pryor commented on Mr. Chapman offering the Fire 1 classes and no one showing up to attend. He stated the County was putting these classes on for free and no one showed up to be a volunteer.

Vice Chairman Stanley stated he had spoken with Danny Calahan at the last Muse Community Association meeting. He stated Mr. Calahan had informed him that the 2 fire trucks were still located at the building just as they had always been. He stated the fire fighters could not stay in the building. He stated another building would be built.

Commissioner Storter Long stated the residents still basically had the same service they had always had.

Mrs. Lyle stated the residents were just worried about losing the service.

Diane Cianfrani, resident of Muse, stated in the past 2 years because the County had 2 full time fire fighters, Mr. Jones had to rotate them monthly. She stated the trucks were there but there were no men there. She commented on combining the fire and EMS station in Muse. She stated she would like to see a survey regarding the number of ambulance calls that went to Palmdale and LaBelle. She suggested moving forward with replacing the building.

Commissioner Storter Long stated the service was not diminished, only the building that it was housed in.

Chairman Ahern stated he would like to continue this discussion when Bob Jones returned to work.

Jim Cianfrani, resident of Muse, stated there had been some discussion at the Muse Community Association's last meeting about the location of the fire house. He asked the Board to keep in mind that the land the building sits on was donated to the Muse Community by Jeffrey Freeman. He stated if the fire house property was not used for a fire house, the Community would lose the property and the park. He stated the property would revert back to Mr. Freeman.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Commissioner Strenth the Board tabled the discussion regarding one cent sales tax funds and the Muse fire house until the June 12, 2018 meeting.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

### **CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS**

Sheriff Hardin stated there were currently 487 inmates at the Jail Facility. He stated of these, 48 were County inmates, which was alarmingly high. He stated he would like to see this number come down. He stated he had meet with the State Attorney's office today and he would be working on this issue. He stated he believed his computerized dispatch could pull the numbers needed to complete the survey regarding the number of calls that the Muse fire department and EMS station handled and where they were dispatched to. He stated he would check with his clerk.

Chairman Ahern thanked Mr. Randolph and the Road Department employees for the work they had done at the Harney Pond boat ramp. He stated he had received numerous compliments about the boat ramp after the recent bass tournament that was hosted by the TDC.

Scott Bass, Superintendent of Schools, stated the Heartland Educational Consortium was providing a sexual harassment training to all the schools in the district. He extended the invitation to attend to all City and County governments. He stated the training would be held on July 26<sup>th</sup>. He stated the course covered issues such as OCR compliance, how to do investigations, how to complete reports, and reporting requirements. He stated he and Mr. Carlisle had met about a month and a half ago and discussed getting something going at the Training Center. He stated the School District was really at a disadvantage due to finances and numbers of students. He stated he believed the best way to get someone in the Training Center was to reach out to a post-secondary institution and have them come in and offer courses. He stated the School District would have an Articulation Agreement with the institution and the County would have a Memorandum of Understanding with the institution for the use of the building. He stated he had met with Fort Myers Technical College and discussed a course for diesel mechanics and HVAC. He stated he had also spoke with them about a Law Enforcement Academy. He stated Fort Myers Technical College was out of space with their academy. He stated their

Executive Director was very interested in offering something out here. He stated the Executive Director was trying to get permission to move forward from Superintendent Adkins. He stated he would be reaching himself to Mr. Adkins to urge him to allow this. He stated this Thursday at 9:30 a.m. Immokalee iTech would be touring the Training Facility. He stated he and Superintendent Patton had talked and she had given the green light to move forward with seeing what kind of programs could be offered at the Training Facility. He stated he had several students who were attending iTech now for diesel mechanic and welding. He stated FGCU was looking to put a grant proposal for a seed grant which would enhance education in rural areas. He stated Glades County Schools were named as FGCU's main partner in this grant application. He stated the grant would not be decided upon until next year. He stated the grant would take existing educators who did not go to college to be a teacher and offer them an alternative certification route to help them gain professional certification. He stated the new President at FGCU had come out several weeks ago and toured the facility. He stated he had committed \$68,000.00 towards starting something next year. He stated he had to do some ground work in getting his staff into a position where they could qualify and move forward with taking these courses. He stated the certification was a series of 8 courses, 7 of which would go towards the teacher's Master's Degree. He stated these courses would be offered a 3 year period and FGCU would be offering the courses at a 50% tuition rate. He stated he had already discussed with Highlands, Hendry, and Okeechobee Superintendents about inviting their staff also. He stated this would be a regional approach. He stated he had also extended the invitation to the private school in Clewiston. He stated a total of 25 students (teachers) would be needed. He stated the grant would total \$3 million and the program would carry on. He stated an Education Academy had also been discussed. He stated students that were interested in Education could attend these courses while in high school. He stated this program would also be open to any individual in the area that had a college degree that wished to transition into Education. He stated Mr. Carlisle had been very involved in the design of the facility. He stated both the Fort Myers Technical College Director and the Dean of Education from FGCU had been blown away by the design of the building. He stated he had reached out to Indian River and would be following up with Russ Brown. He stated he had also reached out to FSW and Hodges University. He stated he would continue to move forward with this project.

Chairman Ahern stated he appreciated all of Mr. Bass's efforts in getting something going at the Training Center. He stated the Board would be meeting with the Hendry County Board of County Commissioners after the next day meeting to further discuss the plans for the Training Center.

Mr. Bass stated he appreciated acknowledging the District's Teachers of the Year and the Honor graduates.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

There was no discussion.

**COUNTY MANAGER**

Joe Helfenberger, Interim County Manager, stated he had enjoyed meeting everyone and looked forward to working with everyone.

Chairman Ahern stated he had taken Mr. Helfenberger on a short tour today around the City. He stated he was glad to have him on board and would be available to assist him any way he could.

Mr. Carlisle stated the project for the sewer expansion in Washington Park was moving along. He stated he was here to help out in any way he could.

**PUBLIC INPUT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

There was none.

**COMMISSIONERS ITEMS AND COMMENTS**

Commissioner Storter Long stated she had enjoyed a nice chat with Mr. Helfenberger this afternoon and looked forward to working with him. She thanked Susan Whidden for helping make the transition very easy and for getting the Commissioner's ipads up and running. She stated Mrs. Whidden would be a big help for Mr. Helfenberger if he had any issues with anything. She stated Century Link had sent their Engineering team out to install a line to the Ortona Community Center. She stated the cell tower was under construction in Ortona. She stated she was thankful for the recent rains.

Commissioner Pryor stated he was also thankful for the rain and looked forward to working with Mr. Helfenberger.

Commissioner Strenth echoed Commissioner Pryor's comments.

Vice Chairman Stanley stated he had met with Water Management about the culvert in Lakeport that was causing drainage issues. He stated Water Management was supposed to have met today to come up with a solution. He stated he had emphasized to them that there needed to be a plan to address the drainage when that canal reached a certain level. He stated Water Management had taken responsibility for the culvert. He stated the Buckhead Ridge Homeowners' Association would meet this Thursday. He stated food would be served beginning at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting would begin at 7:30 p.m.

Chairman Ahern stated he appreciated all of the work Vice Chairman Stanley had been doing on the culvert issue at Lakeport. He also thanked Vice Chairman Stanley for all of the work he had done in the absence of a County Manager. He informed Mr. Helfenberger that he was within a couple of blocks of the courthouse and would be readily available to assist him if needed. He stated he was looking forward to working with Mr. Helfenberger in the future.

**ADJOURN**

ON MOTION of Commissioner Pryor seconded by Commissioner Strenth the Board moved to adjourn the meeting.

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There being no further discussion, Chairman Stanley adjourned the meeting at 7:18 p.m.

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John Ahern, Chairman

ATTEST:

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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.