

MINUTES OF THE GLADES COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING ON TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 2019 AT 9:00 A.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, June 10, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. with the following Commissioners present:

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

Others present:

Julie Mann Braddock, Administrative Secretary  
Sandra H. Brown, Clerk of Court  
Richard Pringle, County Attorney  
Martin Murphy, County Manager  
Bob Jones, Public Safety Director  
Angie Snow-Colegrove, Emergency Management Director  
Susan BuChans, Community Development Director  
Tracy Whirls, EDC Executive Director  
Archie Branch, Public Works Director  
Tiffany Patterson, Finance Director  
Aletris Farnam, Supervisor of Elections  
Connie Vanassche, CAS Governmental Services  
7 citizens

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Stanley called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**PRAYER**

Commissioner Storter Long gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE**

Vice Chairman Pryor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA AMENDMENTS**

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

**PRESENTATIONS / AWARDS**

**1. Discussion on options for bus services in Glades County**

Marybeth Soderstrom, Engagement and Mobility Manager – HRTPO, introduced Ken Harley, Program Manager – HRTPO, and gave an overview of the services currently offered in Glades County. She stated the Heartland Regional Transportation Planning

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Organization was a long range transportation agency that served all 6 counties in the Heartland. She stated the Board was comprised of elected officials. She stated there were 4 committees that supported the HRTPO's work. She stated the Local Coordinating Board oversaw the Community Transportation Program - the Transportation Disadvantaged were served by Good Wheels in Glades County. She stated the program was state funded and provided door to door transportation for those individuals who qualified based on age, income, and disability. She stated Glades County was in a joint service area with Hendry County. She stated approximately 4,390 trips had been provided to residents of Glades County last year. She stated approximately 25,762 trips had been provided to residents of Hendry County. She stated there were also federal funds utilized with this program. She explained the funding for the program. She stated a contract was signed every 5 years to provide these services. She stated as of July 1, 2020 there would be no contract with Good Wheels for service in Glades and Hendry Counties. She explained the RFQ process. She explained that that as a local government, the Board would have the first right of refusal. She stated Hendry County was interested in becoming the CTC for this service area. She stated they would then contract with Glades to provide the transportation services.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if Glades County could join the Okeechobee County service area.

Ms. Soderstrom stated the joint service area could be changed. She explained the process to do this.

There was some discussion how the services were funded.

It was the consensus of the Board to meet with Hendry County regarding the HRTPO and to address the options and need for services in the area.

### **2. Washington National**

Benjamin Weaver, Representative of Washington National and PMA-USA, gave a brief overview of the company. He stated PMA-USA exclusively represented Washington National Insurance Company and had been in business since 1911. He stated they were a leading provider of supplemental health and life insurances for middle income Americans. He stated Washington National was an "A" rated company with over \$4.6 million in invested assets. He stated the company had pioneered the return of premium feature back in the 1970's. He stated the company truly understood how important employee benefits were. He stated sometimes health and major medical insurance did not cover everything. He stated traditional insurance would only cover approximately 40% of the costs for an employee being treated for a major illness. He stated many of the benefits offered did not have limits and would pay as long as the employee needed them to. He stated some of their benefits also paid on and off the job. He stated their newest policy was Hospital Assure. He stated this policy was designed to offset out of pocket costs associated with hospital stays. He stated what set Washington Mutual apart from other insurance companies was the fact that they offered a return of premium feature. He stated the employee would receive 100% of their premiums back if the

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insurance was not used. He stated each plan had a time limit. He stated approximately \$3 billion had been given back since 1995 in the return of premium feature.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if the premium was pre-taxed or post-taxed.

Mr. Weaver stated the company had the availability to do the plans pre-tax on a Section 125 basis. He stated these would be pay roll deductions. He stated while the availability was there, he would not recommend this. He stated when the plans were post-tax the return of premium would not be taxed when returned.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if there would be any administrative fees.

Mr. Weaver stated there were no administrative fees.

Commissioner Storter Long asked how many supplemental insurances were offered now to the employees.

Sandra H. Brown, Clerk of Court, stated there were 4 companies that offered supplemental insurances, along with the dental, vision, and health insurance buy-up. She stated there were a total of 7 payroll deductions being taken out at this time. She reminded the Board that the Board had voted 2 years ago not to allow any further supplemental insurances or payroll deductions.

Chairman Stanley questioned the return of premium feature. He asked when the premiums would be refunded if the policy was not used.

Mr. Weaver stated the maturity dates were different for different policies. He stated the maturity rate for the cancer policy was 20 years. He stated the policies were also portable. The employee would still be offered the same discounted premium even after retirement or if they chose to leave employment.

Chairman Stanley suggested that Mr. Weaver see if any of the employees were interested in any of the policies.

Mr. Weaver stated he would be attending the Health Fair on July 19<sup>th</sup> and would do a small survey to gage the level of interest. He stated he would then come before the Board again to let them know if there was a sufficient amount of interest.

Commissioner Ahern stated changes could be made, if needed, at that time.

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

There were none.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

3. **Approved payment of County Warrants. (Exhibit A)  
General Fund: 85740 – 85808 (Voided 85739 & 85758)**

**ACH Payments: 153 – 154**  
**E911 Maintenance Grant: 135**  
**SHIP: 1813 - 1815**

- 4. Approved the minutes of the July 27, 2018 Joint Workshop**
- 5. Approved the minutes of the July 30, 2018 Special Meeting**
- 6. Approved the minutes of the May 22, 2018 Special Meeting**

ON MOTION of Vice Chairman 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**

#### **7. COPCN name change from Seminole Tribe**

Bob Jones, Public Safety Director, stated Seminole Tribe of Florida Fire had requested that the name on the COPCN be changed to Seminole Tribe Fire/Rescue.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Commissioner Ahern the Board approved the request from Seminole Tribe of Florida to change the Glades County COPCN for the Seminole Tribe Fire to Seminole Tribe Fire/Rescue and authorized the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Board.

Motion carried by 5 - 0 vote.

#### **8. Canvassing Board**

Aletris Farnam, Supervisor of Elections, stated the Canvassing Board meeting would be held on October 18<sup>th</sup> this year. She stated it would be best if the members were not up for re-election. She stated whoever was on the Board would have to attend a signature analysis class. She stated she had asked that Susan Whidden make reservations for 2 people (the member and the alternate).

ON MOTION of Commissioner Storter Long seconded by Commissioner Strenth the Board appointed Donna Storter Long and John Ahern to the Canvassing Board and authorized the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Board.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

#### **9. Friends of Okeechobee Waterway West Board Member Request**

County Manager Murphy stated he received an email from the Friends of Okeechobee Waterway West requesting that a Commissioner be appointed to the represent Glades County on the board.

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ON MOTION of Commissioner Strenth seconded by Commissioner Starter Long the Board appointed John Ahern to the Friends of Okeechobee Waterway West.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

### **10. Hotel Property**

Commissioner Strenth stated he was not sure exactly what date the Board had accepted the bid; however, he believed it had been nearly a year. He stated Mr. Cortez seemed to want to do things his way and not how the County wanted. He suggested rebidding the property and starting over. He stated Mr. Cortez was getting a heck of a deal on a commercial piece of property for \$60,000.00. He suggested giving Mr. Cortez 60 days to execute a contract and if not, then cancelling the deal and rebidding it.

Commissioner Ahern stated he and Attorney Pringle had been working on this deal for a year. He stated the last contract received from Mr. Cortez's attorney was written as if they had never communicated with each other. He stated it was nothing like what had been agreed upon.

Attorney Pringle remind everyone that this was the 3<sup>rd</sup> contract version that he had tried to work through with New Moore Haven, LLC. He stated the first contract had been completely unacceptable. He stated he had provided a detailed ground lease in an effort to protect the County. He stated Mr. Cortez's lender however, would not accept this document for financing. He stated a third agreement had been written and did not include any of the provisions included in the ground lease. He stated many of the items not included were post-closing requirements. He stated he wanted to make sure there were still protections in place after closing. He stated Mr. Cortez and his attorney agree in concept to the provisions. He stated he had no problem with putting a 60 day limit on this transaction.

Commissioner Starter Long suggested having a contract brought to the July 22, 2019 night meeting including all of the provisions that Attorney Pringle wanted and the Board would vote on it at the August 13, 2019 meeting.

ON MOTION of Commissioner Strenth seconded by Commissioner Starter Long the Board agreed to have a contract brought to the July 22, 2019 night meeting that met with Attorney Pringle and Commissioner Ahern's approval; to bring the executed contract back to the August 13, 2019 meeting for Board approval; and if no contract was executed by that date, the Board would cancel the agreement with New Moore Haven, LLC., and proceed with a new RFP for the hotel property.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

### **CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS**

There was no discussion.

### **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

There was no discussion.

**COUNTY MANAGER**

Vice Chairman Pryor asked if the mowing had been arranged for the Training Center. County Manager Murphy stated the mowing was being coordinated with the firm that had been awarded the planting contract.

Vice Chairman Pryor expressed concern with the daily rain and stated the property would only continue to get wetter by the day.

Commissioner Storter Long asked who the bid had been awarded to.

County Manager Murphy stated the contract had been awarded to Cross Creek. He stated he had to get them to execute the contract and then coordinate with them to do the mowing. He stated once he had approval from Water Management District the mowing would be done.

Vice Chairman Pryor stated the County already had approval from Water Management District. He stated he wanted the property mowed and was tired of receiving phone calls about the issue.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if there was a contract.

County Manager Murphy stated there was a contract, but no schedule.

Commissioner Storter Long asked why the contract had been signed with no schedule and no deadline for the work to be completed.

County Manager Murphy stated he would coordinate a schedule with County crews and the contractor.

**PUBLIC INPUT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Connie Vanassche, CAS Governmental Services, stated the Legislative Delegation meeting had been scheduled for October 3, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. She stated the deadline for the County's legislative packet would be 10 days prior to this date. She gave a brief update from Tallahassee. She stated 41 bills had been presented to the Governor of which 38 had been signed. She stated there were 70 bills awaiting presentation to him.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if the new budget workshop dates had been finalized.

Sandra H. Brown, Clerk of Court, stated the workshops would be held on July 9, 2019 after the regular day meeting and July 22, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. before the night meeting. She stated the special meeting had been scheduled for August 1, 2019 at 5:05 p.m.

Tracy Whirls, Executive Director – Glades County EDC, stated a client had a contract on the Heron Bay property. She gave an overview of the proposed project. She stated the

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TDC's "Come Play, Come Stay" video had been posted to the Visit Glades Facebook page and website.

### **COMMISSIONERS ITEMS AND COMMENTS**

Commissioner Strenth invited everyone to attend the Lakeport Community Associations' Beans & Cornbread" social tomorrow night at 7:00 p.m.

Commissioner Ahern stated he, Commissioner Strenth, and Connie Vanassche had met with Congressman Mast regarding the County's position regarding the Lake. He stated there were discussions regarding having the people North of the Lake compensating the County for storing their water. He stated Congressman Stuebe had agreed to meet with him on July 1<sup>st</sup> to tour the Lake. He stated others would be invited to attend this meeting. He stated he was continuing to work on the funding for iTech Center. He asked if the doors had been installed yet at the Muse Fire House.

Mr. Cianfrani stated they had not.

Bob Jones, Public Safety Director, stated the doors were not installed yet and he had informed the contractor that the Board was not pleased. He stated the contractor had asked for another change order and he had informed them there would be no more change orders.

Commissioner Storter Long expressed concern with the building not being completed when the Board had been told it would be finished in April. She stated Jack's Branch had experienced a few fires recently. She stated the bridge situation would have to be addressed at some point in the near future. She commented on the RPC and the fact that Sarasota, Lee, and Charlotte Counties had stopped paying their dues. She stated a lot of changes would be voted on at the next meeting on June 20<sup>th</sup>. She asked that County Manager Murphy attend that meeting.

Vice Chairman Pryor stated he had met with several residents of Port LaBelle Unit 102 regarding the construction of modular homes in their subdivision. He stated the residents were still wanting to do something to stop this. He stated Hendry County was working on design standards. He expressed concern with these people leaving Glades County if something was not done. He stated they were looking into forming a Homeowners' Association. He stated the 16 County Coalition had met on Friday. He stated the coalition was setting its legislative priorities. He stated he would be meeting with Dan Delisi regarding the lake levels. He questioned when the new recording equipment would be installed in the Board room.

Ms. Brown stated a contract had been signed and the County had paid for the system for 2 years now. She stated she had spoken with Susan Whidden regarding the matter and it was unclear as to who would install the system.

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Commissioner Storter Long asked if County Manager Murphy could review the contract and find out more about the matter. She questioned the program Mrs. Whidden was going to get to keep a vendor list for the County.

Ms. Brown stated she believed the program was up and running.

Vice Chairman Pryor stated he would like to see Mrs. Whidden attend the meetings again. He stated she could answer questions like these.

Commissioner Storter Long agreed. She stated Mrs. Whidden did not even know the meeting date had changed for today's meeting. She stated she needed to be kept up to date with changes such as this.

County Manager Murphy stated Mrs. Whidden had put together the resolution changing the date for the meeting and was aware of the change. He expressed concern with closing his office during these meetings. He stated several people were present and taking notes.

Vice Chairman Pryor suggested transferring the calls to Nancy in the Community Development Office.

Ms. Brown expressed concern with relying on the notes Ms. Braddock took during the meeting because of the delay in getting the final minutes prepared.

County Manager Murphy stated any tasks that needed to be taken care of through his office were assigned the following day.

Commissioner Storter Long asked if Mrs. Whidden had been informed of the Board's approval to change the meeting date.

County Manager Murphy stated the item had been discussed at the weekly staff meeting and Mrs. Whidden was aware of the change.

Vice Chairman Pryor again stated he would like for Mrs. Whidden to attend the meetings.

Commissioner Storter Long agreed.

Chairman Stanley commented on a lawsuit on burning cane and how detrimental it would be for Glades County if the burning was prohibited. He suggested sending a letter of support of the sugar cane farmers. He stated he recently attended the NPA meeting. He stated the information provided was very good. He stated a one cent sales tax could be imposed for fire services. He stated this would generate approximately \$720,000.00 in revenue. He stated the matter would have to go to referendum prior to implementation. He stated this would distribute the costs among everyone. He commented on all of the surrounding counties charging .12 cents/gallon on fuel tax and the fact that Glades County only charged .07 cents/gallon. He stated the .05 cents/gallon difference would



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generate \$679,339.00 per year for Glades County. He suggested looking into this matter further.

**ADJOURN**

ON MOTION of Vice Chairman Pryor seconded by Commissioner Strenth the Board adjourned the meeting.

Motion carried by 5 – 0 vote.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Stanley adjourned the meeting at 10:58 a.m.

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Tim 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.